February 2009 Rs.10/- 80 Pages

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

Spring Cleaning!

If winter comes...
ABHYODAYA JHA,
Std. VI,
D.A.V. Public School,
Bhubaneswar.

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

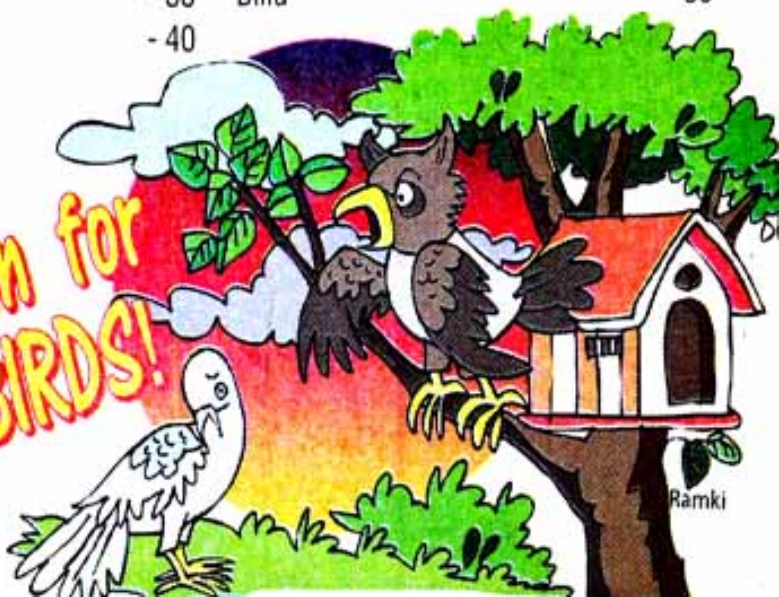
February 2009 Vol.XXI, No.8

KALKI GROUP

Of all created things the loveliest.
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

CONTENTS

Editorial -2
School Events - 3
Hello Mr. Salt - 4
Grandmaworm - 6
Caro's Offering (Pic. Story) - 10
Viewpoint - 13
Gokulam Studio - 18
Budding Bards - 20
Zero-in - 25
Chinese New Year - 27
Competition Results - 28
Cuisine Corner - 30
Patience Partner (Pic. Story) - 32
On a Cleaning Mission (Cover Story) - 34
Fun School (Jokes) - 37
Udupi (My District) - 38
Board Game - 40
Ca(ugh)t in the City - 42
Junior Gallery - 46
They Make News - 48
Experience - 51
Doctor Knows Best - 54
A Shade of Disappointment (Pic. Story - Part II) - 58
Penpals - 62
Have Your Say - 64
Let's Care for Carrom Too (Sports) - 65
Chuckles (Jokes) - 67
Birthday Bash - 68
Activity - 70
The Young Author (Short Story) - 72
Daily Life - 75
Letter Box - 78
Billu - 80



22 A Lesson for Lazy BIRDS!

KALKI GROUP
HOUSE of QUALITY

GOKULAM

printed and published at
Bharathan Press
on behalf of
Bharathan Publications
Private Limited
Kalki buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal,
Chennai - 600 032
printer and publisher :
Lakshmi Natarajan
editor:
Seetha Ravi
layouts :
S.Stephen, M.Mohan
S.Karthikeyan, B.Gopal
telephones :
4343 8888 (30 lines)
fax :
044 - 4343 8899
e-mails :
editorial :
gokulam@kalkiweekly.com
advertisements :
marketing@kalkiweekly.com
subscriptions :
subscription@kalkiweekly.com
other information :
info@kalkiweekly.com
subscription rates :
inland : annual
Rs.120/-
overseas : annual
Rs.1050/-

THE Magazine for Children

"TOPPERS' CLUB" & "WINNERS' ACADEMY!"

Dear Reader,

"*Our little secret to your child's success.*" screams the handout given to me at my street corner. It is nothing but an advertisement for a tutorial institution. They want parents to admit their children in the coaching classes conducted by them for Matric and CBSE exams and the courses start from standard VIII itself!

I don't know what you think about all this, but I feel it's grossly unfair to both students and their parents.

Parents undergo a lot of trouble and strain to get their children admitted in Matric and CBSE schools. They also pay heavy fees and in many cases huge amounts as donations. If after sapping the parents thus, the students are not taught properly at school that they have to go for special coaching elsewhere, then it is a shame on the CBSE and Matric Schools. The cost is doubled for the parents. As for the children, they have to spend time both at school and at the tutorial. In addition they have to do homework, which too is doubled! Where will they find the time to relax or play?

Schools which charge so heavily must also be responsible for the proper education of their students. Whether it is workshops or concept teaching; focused attention or career counseling, the schools must do their best so that students need not depend upon tutorials promising "Toppers' club" or "Winners' Academy"!

- Editor

School Event

Glitter Ball and Butterfly Dance!

Our sports day was a grand affair, presided over by the police officer Pramot Kumar, IPS. We have four houses competing in the sports events – Cauvery, Ganga, Krishna and Yamuna. Their colours are blue, green, red and yellow respectively. First the march past went past the chief guest, performing the customary salute. I was one of the marchers and felt quite thrilled!

After this, we had programmes performed by students of different classes. There was a drill, a 'glittering ball' event and a butterfly dance. Students wore 'flower' costumes and those in butterfly costumes, flitted in and out rhythmically through the arrangement of flowers. The juniors performed 'free hand' exercises while the older students exercised with batons decorated with colour paper. There was a dance which combined music and movements from the various states of India, in which any one who wished could join.

Our Cauvery house won the championship for march past.

- I.Indhuja, Std.IX,
R.S.K.H.S.S., Trichy

The All India IT Talent Search Exam was held in our school in September last year. The questions were not very tough and we had all prepared thoroughly for the exam. So we did well and were sure of securing good marks. One day, during recess, my friend came running up to me and said that I had secured a position among the top 1150 in the state level and that I was also a school and class topper. Our computer teacher gave us the certificates. It was thrilling.

- Vishishtha Upul,
Std.VI, D.A.V. Public School,
Ranchi

Hello Mr.SALT!

Hi ! Do you ever think of me?

Though I am an indispensible part of your life, I am rarely remembered. I am born in coastal land and you can spot me next to the Salt Pans near the sea. And before I brief you on what a salt pan is, here's something you need to know about my history and chemistry.

I am Mr.SALT, the most widely distributed compound in nature. I make up about 3 per cent of ocean water by weight. I am also distributed throughout many rivers and inland lakes and seas, the concentration varying from 0.002 per cent in the Mississippi River to 30 per cent in the Dead Sea.

I've been the most important person since prehistoric times.I've been used as a seasoning agent and to preserve foods. I was also an important medium of exchange in the commercial ventures across the Mediterranean, Aegean, and Adriatic seas, and has been subject to severe taxation in Asian countries from ancient to modern times. In the form of salt cakes, I've been served as money in ancient Ethiopia and Tibet. The English term salary, which formerly represented a soldier's money allowance for salt, was derived from salarium, the Latin term, referring to the salt allotment that was issued to soldiers serving in the Roman army.

Did you Know?

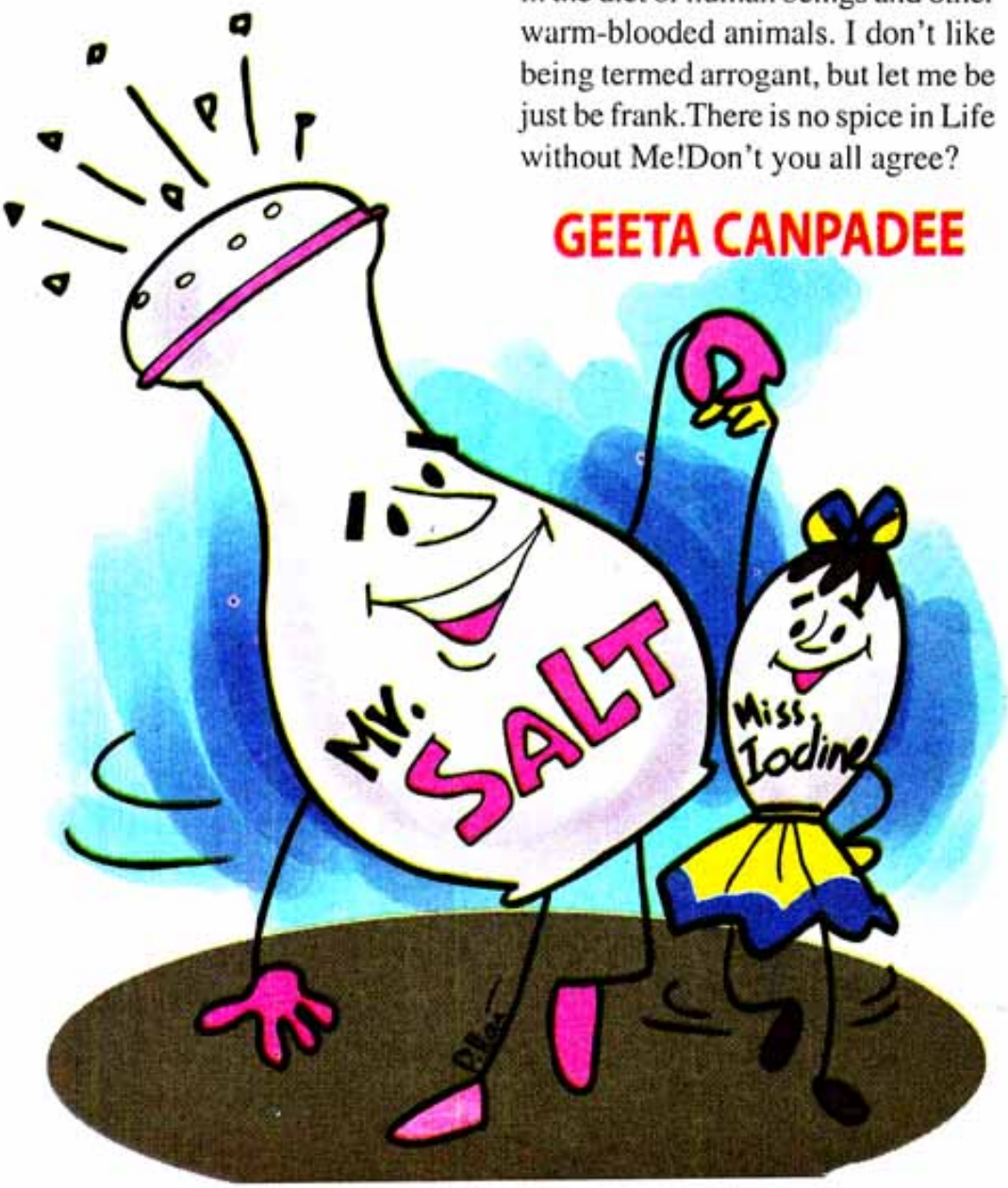
The simplest method of obtaining me from areas near oceans or seas is by creating Salt Pans.These are huge pan like pits that are dug to collect sea water which later on evaporates, leaving me in crystal state and I'm then called rock salt. In most regions, I am obtained from subterranean sources by mining or by wells sunk in to the deposits. Several methods of evaporation are used, the most important of which is solar evaporation, in which the heat is derived from the rays of the Sun. But commercially, I am also produced by

steam or direct-heat evaporation of rock-salt brine.

I hold the most important position on every dining table. I'm therefore called table salt and these days I have a girlfriend Miss Iodine who stays with me most of the time, helping prevent a disease called goitre. I am also employed in some refrigeration processes, in dyeing, and in the manufacture of soap and glass. Because I am transparent to infrared radiation, my crystals are used for making the prisms and lenses of instruments used in the study of infrared radiation.

In short, I am a very significant person and an essential constituent in the diet of human beings and other warm-blooded animals. I don't like being termed arrogant, but let me be just be frank.There is no spice in Life without Me!Don't you all agree?

GEETA CANPADEE



Dear Grandma,

Can I judge a book by its cover?

– Megha S.Kumar, Bangalore

of paragraphs here and there in the book to find out if the style of the author is to your liking and easily understandable. You may then take the risk of buying the book. Even so, there is always a possibility that the book may disappoint you. If you are a lover of books you'll develop a liking for certain authors, whose writings will surely please you. So, a safe selection will be to go by authors rather than by titles.

★★★

JUDGING A BOOK BY IT'S COVER!

Dear Megha,

The answer is 'yes' and 'no'! Some books have very attractive colourful illustrations on the cover but the author may let you down. However, the blurb on the cover page will give you some idea as to the nature of the book and what it deals with. If the subject appeals to you, you can read a couple

My mother asked me to make friends with bright persons. So I did. But now he turns out to be dull in his studies. Should I continue with this friendship?

– Shreyank S.Kotian, Mangalore

Dear Shreyank,

Friendship doesn't depend on a person's intelligence or lack of it.

Friendship should be practised for the sake of friendship and not for any personal gain. Ofcourse, you can always have more than one friend and bright persons among them. But don't give up a friend because he is dull at his studies. It will hurt him badly. On the other hand, as a true friend, you must encourage him in his studies and even try to help him.

★★★

I am good at acting and dancing. How can I show my talents to every one?

– Vinotheeba Reginald, Colombo

Dear Vinotheeba,

The easiest way to fulfil your wish is to register your name with your school's cultural secretary and ask for an opportunity to participate in the cultural events held on the school's annual day celebrations. If by bad luck you are not selected, you can always

gather like - minded friends to form an amateur drama troupe. You can stage a play on a holiday for your parents, relatives and friends within the confines of your home. It is now recognized that true drama doesn't need elaborate props. Remember, staging a drama requires lot of planning and rehearsals. So, it is better to wait for the vacation when you'll have a lot of time.

★★★

I want to keep my room colourful and beautiful. Please advise.

– D.Lalithya, Hyderabad

Dear Lalithya,

Keeping your room colourful and

beautiful depends on how much your parents can spend on it. There are paint manufacturing companies which can send specialists to spruce up your room with beautiful blends of colours. Then there are interior decorators who, as their name suggests, do a good job of improving the looks of your room. However, the most beautifully decorated room can become ugly if not maintained neat and proper. So, even if you don't have much money to spend, just being neat and clean will make your room bright and beautiful. Small things like a flower vase with a single long stemmed flower freshly plucked; a double curtain with lovely designs for the window; a small laughing Buddha placed at an appropriate place and angle; an eye catching scenery well framed to decorate a wall at the correct height etc., will make your room glow. Use your imagination to redecorate as and when you feel like it.

★ ★ ★

My teacher says that everyone is blessed with some or other talent but only a few realise it. Is this true? If so, how can I become aware of the talent I possess?

– Lilabati Mohanta,
Chhattisgarh

Dear Lilabati,

What your teacher says is absolutely true. To recognize the talent that you have, you'll have to ask yourself a few questions: Which activity do I like most? Does it give me total satisfaction while practising it? If I am not able to indulge in that activity does it make me miserable? And so on.. for instance, if you feel happy while painting or drawing and you don't feel that the time was wasted then, that is the talent which you should nurture and

பள்ளி, கல்லூரி மாணவ, மாணவியருக்கு

யுவஸ்ரீ கலா பாரதி விருது

தமிழ்நாடு, பாண்டிச்சேரி மற்றும் பெங்களூரைச் சார்ந்த பள்ளி கல்லூரி மாணவ, மாணவியருக்கு மதுரை பாரதி யுவ கேந்திரா அமைப்பு சார்பில் **யுவஸ்ரீகலா பாரதி விருது** மற்றும் **சுவாமி விவேகானந்தர் விருதுகள்** வழங்கப்படுகின்றன. நடந்து முடிந்த மற்றும் கடந்த 3 ஆண்டுகளில் 10, 12 ஆம் வகுப்பு பொதுத்தேர்வுகளில் 80 சதவிகிதம் மற்றும் அதற்குமேல் மதிப்பெண் பெற்றவர்கள் இதற்கு விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம். மேலும் LKG முதல் கல்லூரி வரையிலான மாணவ, மாணவியர் படிப்பு, இசை, பரதநாட்டியம், விளையாட்டு, ஓவியம், யோகா, UC MAS, ABACUS, மற்றும் பிற துறைகளில் பரிசு பெற்றவர்களும், அவர்கள் பெற்ற பரிசுக்கான சான்றிதழின் ஜெராக்ஸ் பிரதிகளுடன் ரூ. 10 அஞ்சல் தலை ஒட்டப்பட்ட சுய விலாசமிட்ட கவருடன் கீழ்கண்ட முகவரிக்கு உடன் அனுப்பிட கேட்டுக்கொள்ளப்படுகிறார்கள். நிகழ்ச்சி அந்தந்த மாவட்டத்தில் நடைபெறும். தேதி, இடம் ஆகியன அவரவர்களுக்கு அனுப்பிவைக்கப்படும். விழாவின் போது ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் எடுக்கப்படுகிற புகைப்படத்திற்கான கட்டணத்தை ஒவ்வொருவரும் கண்டிப்பாக ஏற்க வேண்டும். ☆

அரிமா நெல்லை பாலு,
நிறுவனர்-பாரதி யுவ கேந்திரா,
G-52, சாந்தி சதன் குடியிருப்பு, கோச்சடை,
மதுரை-625 016. செல் 94439-30815, 94426 30815.

cultivate. The most important point to remember is that you need not become a famous painter or singer and earn tons of money to prove your talent. You may have some other vocations to earn a living and yet pursue your artistic talent for the pleasure that it gives you.

★★★

I want to speak English well. Please give me some tips.

– Manikanda, Madurai

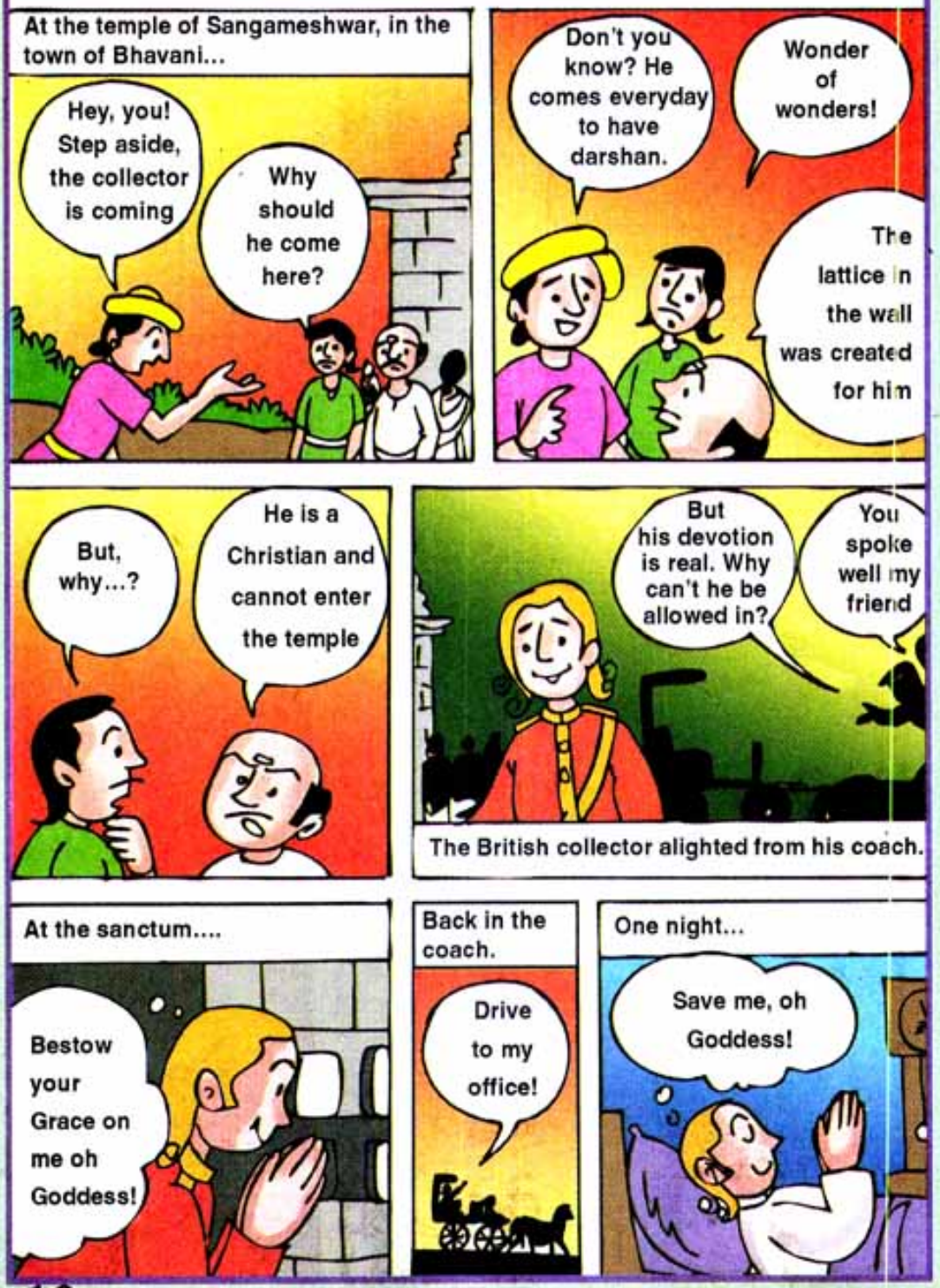
Dear Manikanda,

Its easy. 1.Listen to B.B.C. telecast as often as you can. 2. Always speak in English. Don't feel shy. Ask elders to correct you when you mispronounce. Your fluency will improve gradually.

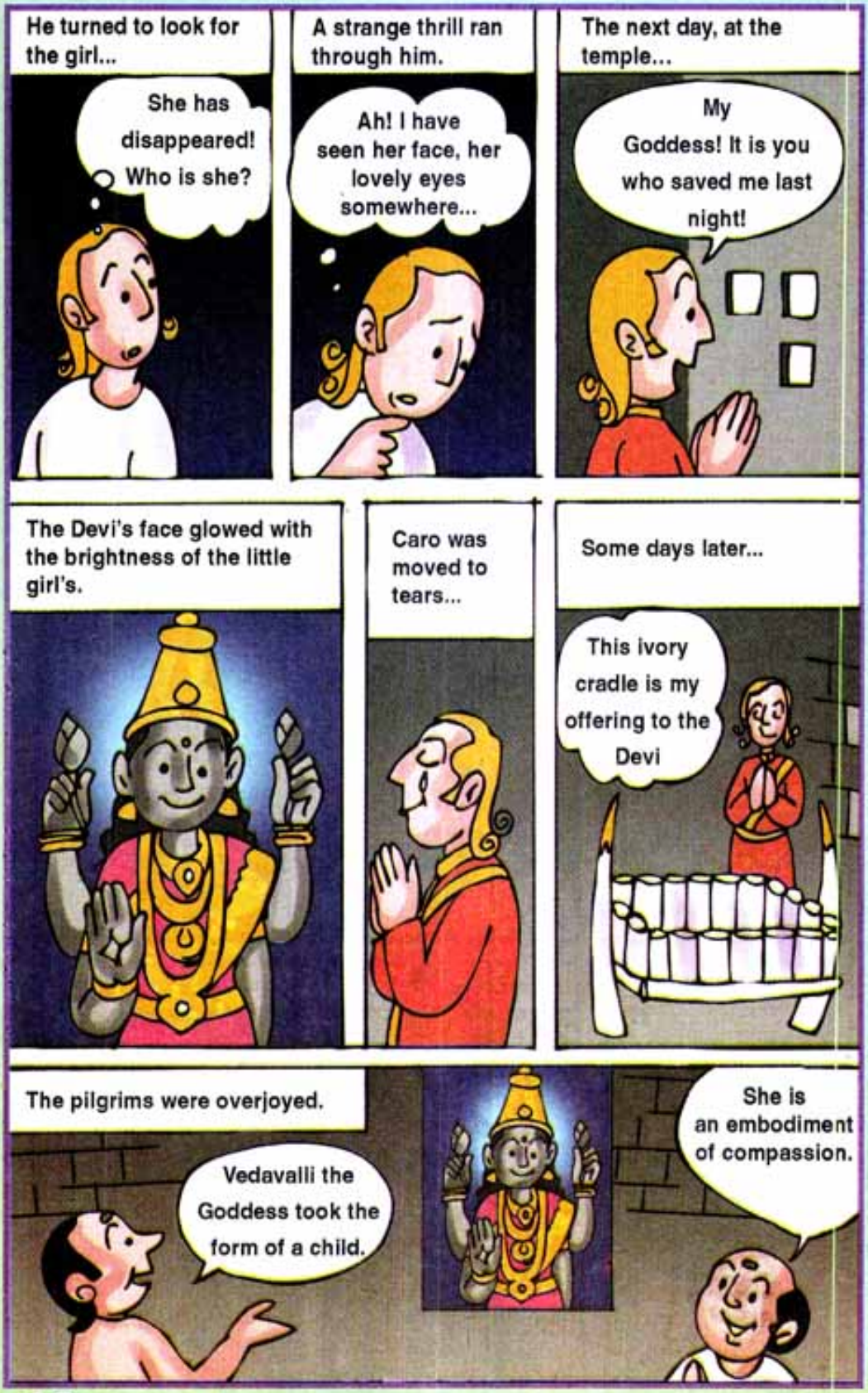
Love,
Grandmaworm

Caro's Offering

Story : Rahul
Pictures : Pillai



Deep in sleep.
Slowly...
Caro! Caro! Wake up!
But Caro was fast asleep.
The little girl shook him.
Wake up and come with me..
Caro woke up...
What for? Who are you?
We can't talk now. Let's get out..
What? Where are you leading me?
You are in danger!
The moment they stepped out of the castle...
Bang
It crashed down..!
Crash
Caro was shocked.
What on earth is happening...?


He turned to look for the girl...
She has disappeared! Who is she?
A strange thrill ran through him.
Ah! I have seen her face, her lovely eyes somewhere...
The next day, at the temple...
My Goddess! It is you who saved me last night!
The Devi's face glowed with the brightness of the little girl's.
Caro was moved to tears...
Some days later...
This ivory cradle is my offering to the Devi
The pilgrims were overjoyed.
Vedavalli the Goddess took the form of a child.
She is an embodiment of compassion.

View Point

Argue With Respect; Not Rancour!

Is it right for children to argue with their parents and teachers? – *This was the question for the month raised in December. Here goes....a virtual downpour of considered and emphatic opinions:*

If we feel that our parents or teachers are wrong, we must listen to their views all the same, think well and then speak out our views. Quarrels should be avoided.

- E.Narendran, Std.IV, Jawahar M.H.S.S., Neyveli

It is right to argue when reasonable. People understand their children from a different point of view. But don't cross limits of politeness and harmony.

- Tehoshiba Selvam, Std.X, Good Sheperd Matric School, Marthandam; Arun.R, Age 10, Poorna Learning Centre, Bengalooru;Mona Lisa, Std.VI, St.Mary's School, Deepshikha (Orissa); K.Gayathri, Std. IX, Nirmala Matha Convent M.H.S.S., Coimbatore

To prove a point, a right type of argument is ok. Only then will we children be relieved of stress and emotional trauma.

- V.N.Pratap, Std.IV, SBOA Matric and H.S.S., Chennai

When Children are prepared to patiently listen to elders, should not elders too listen to children. Elders are not always right. So we need to argue and explain to them, but not rudely.

- N.T.Pavithra, Std.XI, Jawahar Higher Secondary School, Neyveli

Arguing may be exciting but it is not healthy when it crosses limits. Instead of arguing over issues in which we disagree, we should question parents, teachers and elders in order to improve our personal skills or knowledge.

- B.Harish, Std.IX, Sri Ahobila Mutt Oriental H.S.S., Chennai

The voice of elders is the voice of god. But they are also human beings and tend to commit mistakes. If they cling to superstitions or express a concept in a wrong way, we ought to argue with them. For appropriate reasons, argue firmly, but not rudely.

- Evangeline Ann Daniel, Std.IX, Mahatma Montessori M.H.S.S., Madurai; Harshini Vikram, Std.VIII, Chiranjiv Bharati School, Gurgaon; Ambarish.R.Rao, Std.X, K.V., Bhandup, Mumbai; Abhinav Rajaseshan, Std.VII, Indian H.S., Dubai

Arguing can become a bad habit if the liberty is taken often. When a child has to defend herself or himself, he can very well argue but respect elders always.

- Sheethal R. Holla, Std.VII, JKV, Bengalooru

Children may discuss or express views but never argue with elders or teachers on any count.

- S.Suganthan, Std.IX, D.A.V. BHEL School, Ranipet; Sarbani Chakraborty, Std.VIII, K.V. 1, Port Blair

Indeed, children must not argue with elders. But, now a days the teaching method of teachers is tiresome and their language too is not fine. Even my own experience has been so. How can we then not argue? It is the situation that determines whether we can argue or not.

- M.Mukundhan Std.VII, Montfort School, Trichy; Kafeela Parvin, Std.X, O.L.F.G.H.S, Mathilakan, Thrissur

Many religions forbid children from arguing with older people. It is not correct to argue.

- Karthik Kalyankumar, Std.VII, K.V. 1, Bengalooru;A.Aswin Vayiravan, Std.XI, T.V.S.M.H.S.S, Madurai; Fathima Ridha, Std.IX, Touheed English Medim School, Gangolli (Udupi)

It is definitely not right for children to argue. Elders may sometimes be irritating, but they know what is good and bad and they always look for the

QUESTION FOR THE MONTH :

"Should schools have compulsory Moral Science classes?"

Send us your views by 25.02.2009. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non- residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)

child's all round development.

- R.Lakshmipriya, Std.VII, Nirmala Rani English Primary School, Bengalooru

It is not advisable to argue with older people. When we argue, we stop listening and when we don't listen, we cannot understand. If necessary, we can politely point out to them our view instead of arguing and making them angry. But we can gain by listening carefully to their arguments.

- N.S.Jayanthi Priya, Std.XI, St.Ignatius Convent, Palayamkottai;

Aysha Naurein, Std.VII, N.M.C.M.S, Coimbatore; Sandhya Nayak, Std. IV, Bethany H.S., Bengalooru; Sneha.S, Std.VIII, Avila Convent M.H.S.S., Coimbatore

When children take the liberty of arguing with elders, they tend to do so with guests and visitors too. This causes embarrassment to the parents. It is not correct.

- Yathiaiswaryaraj.B., Std.VIII, J.S.S. Public School, Mysore;Anjali.R., Std.VI, K.V. Meenambakkam, Chennai; A.Kashyapan, Std.VIII, R.C.P.E.M.School, Shirpur; Sridevi.T.T., Std. VIII, Panchayath H.S.S., Pappinisseri; B.Pragadeesh, Std.VIII, S.S.V.M.H.S.S, Chennai

Argument would be disobedience and disrespect. Children must try to convince elders without arguing with them. Even if they don' feel convinced, we need not feel defeated, but we can wait for an appropriate time. Arguing brazenly is alien to our culture. They are our friends, philosophers and guides for ever. We will realize this

later in our lives.

- Sanjay Nayak, Std.V, Madhavakripa School, Manipal; Ankita Mamania, Std.X, J.B.Khot School No.2, Mumbai; Anirudh Rajaseshan, Std.XI, Indian High School, Dubai; R.Akshani Retnam, Std.VIII, Campion A.I.H.S.S., Trichy;Sakshi Agarwal, Std.VIII, Choithram School, Indore;Megha S.Kumar, Std.VIII, Bishop Cotton Girls' School, Bengalooru; Athipan Anbumani, Std. V, Kalaimagal Kalvi Nilayam M.S., Erode; NAkhilandeswari, Std.IX, Vyasa Vidayalaya, Matriculation, School,Chennai; Deepika Durai, Std.IX, Our Lady of Counsel High School, Mumbai; Keerthana.V., Std.VI, S.B.O.A School, Chennai

It is better not to get the curses of parents by arguing with them. We should try to get their blessings instead. If they are wrong, we are not the ones to correct them.

- S.Anubha Pearline, Std.XI, Chennai; S.Indhuja, Std.IX, R.S.K.H.S.S, Trichy

Healthy arguments are needed always because it enables us to know more, learn more. When we ask, "Tell me why?" we get exposed to new things. Some times my parents refer to books and come up with the right reasons or explanations. They too get to know more.

- Maanasa Natarajan, Std.V, Jnanodaya School, Bengalooru

Arguing makes children more intelligent, if it is done with the right purpose. It increases creativity, makes us extroverts and helps to clarify doubts. Children have the right to express themselves and seek explanations. But it should be done in the right spirit and not to show disrespect and we should not argue when we have done something wrong.

- Yazhini Anbumani, Std.IX, Kalaimagal Kalvi Nilayam, Erode; G.Sailakshmi, Std. VIII, Sri Sharadha M.S., Tirunelvelli; Rohan Singh Jain, Std.VI, D.A.V.P.S., Chennai; C.H.Rahul, Std.VII, Hussain Memorial M.S., Chennai; M.S.Gowri Sankari, Good Shepherd M.H.S.S., Marthandam; Soubhagya S.Prabhu, Std.IX, St. Mary's Bethany Public School, Kayamkulam.

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

Picture: A. SHEETAL MARY, Std. IX, St. Anne's Convent School, Chandigarh.

Subscribe Now

Name : .....

Address : .....

: .....

: ..... **Pin** : .....

Phone No: ..... **Email** : .....

Period : Inland ☐ **1 year** Rs.120/- ☐ **2 years** Rs.220/- ☐ **3 years** Rs.320/-

Overseas ☐ Rs.1,200/- ☐ Rs.2,200/- ☐ Rs.3,200/-

Amount enclosed : Rs. ☐ **Only Demand Drafts and Money Orders accepted**

You can also register with your newspaper agent for a month after month door delivery.

The Circulation Manager
Gokulam
'Kalki Buildings',
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, CHENNAI - 600 032.
E-mail : subscription@kalkiweekly.com

NEVER GIVE UP

Every time you are restless
That something goes wrong,
Stand up and don't give up
Tell yourself you're strong!

When you are all alone
And temptations beat you down
Stand up and don't give up
Or your face will wear a frown!

Take courage and never give up
If you believe in yourself,
Stop blaming circumstances
It will be of great help.

- Vini, Std.VII,
St. Michael's Academy,
Chennai

MOUNTAINS

High above the earth
Stand the mountains of ancient birth.
They are so high,
They seem to touch the sky.

They are rugged and heavy
But outdo Miss Universe in beauty!
The mountains are a good place to rest
The highest peak amidst them is Mount Everest

Volcanic mountains
Spew lava, like fountains!
Mountains are unique in the scheme of creation
And a source of lofty inspiration

- R.Tharuneka, Std.VIII,
Sacred Heart Convent, Yercaud

There is many a different season
Each occurs because of a reason.
Winter, spring, summer and fall
Are the four seasons all in all.

Winter in some places is freezing cold
In others, warmth still has some hold!
In some places it is a bit chilly
But to wear a scarf would look silly!

Flowers bloom in the season of spring
Colourful bells seem to ring!
The gardens wear a riot of colours
Of fragrant, gentle, friendly flowers.

Hot summer comes thereafter,
Making all of us sweat, oh, bother!
Children gather around ice cream stalls
And grown ups visit the A.C malls!

When leaves turn from green to brown.,
You know that autumn has come down.
Leaves fall gently to the ground
Walking on them makes a rustling sound!

- Akshayarka Alammyan Deka,
Std.V, Carmel School, Jorhat,
Assam

T.Yamini
Std. IX , Vedavalli Vidyalaya
Senior Secondary School,
Walajapet.

S.Ranjith
Std. VII, St.John's.sr.sec School,
Chennai.

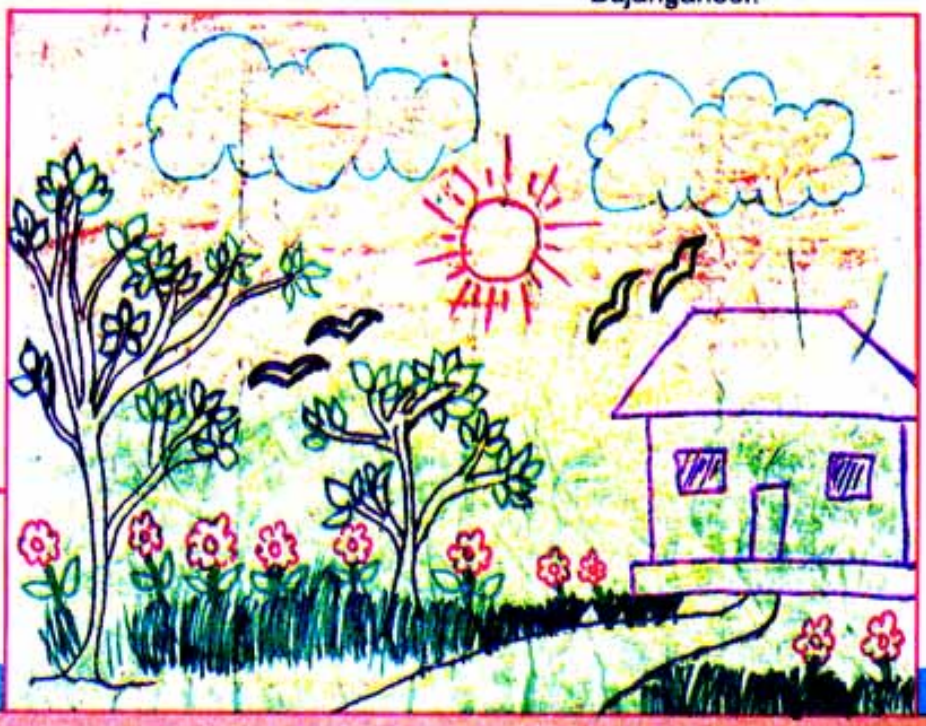
Shreyanka shetty
Std. VII, Sharada Vidyalaya,
Mangalore.

Gokulam studio

K.Sri Janani
Std. VII, D.A.V. BHEL,
Vellore.

C.Hari Prasanth
Std. VIII, Vinayaga
Vidhyalaya (CBSE) School,
Bujanganoor.

MONALISA,
Std. VI, St. Mary's School,
Odisha.



CHANDRA SUBRAMANYAM

A LESSON FOR Lazy

As all the birds worked hard at building their nests, the pigeons alone strutted about vainly, pecking at grain and fruits. The rest of the birds were picking up twigs and little sticks to make their homes. As they rushed around from morning to night, the pigeons taunted and teased them.

"Why are you all in a flurry? You workaholics!" exclaimed the laid back pigeons.

"You will know soon enough," replied the other birds, for they were fully aware of the dangers that lurked in the forest near by. There were enemies, hidden in the forest, and they were all set to come and make a meal of the birds! But the pigeons cared least about this threat!

The birds lived in a small town in Texas. There was a lot of greenery all around and they were quite happy and contented. But they were truly worried about the attitude of the pigeons. One day, they mustered up the courage to confront the

lazy birds.

"Hello Mr.Pigeon, can I have a moment with you? I would like to talk to you", said Crow. Pigeon stopped and turned around with a look of disdain. "OK, go ahead," he said with disinterest in his voice.

"Why are you not building nests for yourself?" asked Crow. "We are just not interested" replied Pigeon. "Firstly, it is such a laborious process. Secondly, we are happy as we are!"

Soon the papers began to report the death of pigeons. When the other birds pointed out to them that their race was in danger, the pigeons dismissed them saying that natural calamities would happen now and then!

The birds went to Mr.Owl and appealed to him to intervene and put sense into the heads of the pigeons. But Mr.Owl would not interfere. "Ha!" said Mr.Owl. "Never give advice to those who don't ask for it."

"But, they are in danger!" puffed Mr.Crow, anxiously. But Owl would have none of it. He firmly said that the day would come when the pigeons would seek his advice and he would give it then.

As time passed, the pigeons lost much of their population. The news was all over, like wild

fire. The media set up a big scare about the new, serious disease that was wiping out pigeons from the face of the earth! The whole flock of the vain birds were scared beyond their wits and decided to approach Mr.Owl for his sagacious advice.

When the pigeons came to him, Mr.Owl pretended not to know anything and asked, "what a surprise! What brings you here?"

"We are dying in millions" began the pigeons and told Mr.Owl their sad story. "Start building your own homes," said Mr.Owl gently.

"Should we build with twigs and leaves like the other birds?" the pigeons asked doubtfully. They had never built houses before!

"Consult your other feathered friends," replied Mr.Owl with a smile, "and don't forget to apologize to them for being so dismissive of their kindness."

The pigeons understood that Mr.Owl was gently drawing attention to their rudeness. "We will do so," they said. "We have another concern too," they added. "Many of us are suffering from obesity and have a cholesterol problem. What is the remedy?"

"Stop feeding on the food thrown to you by human beings and start looking for your own food" – pat came Mr.Owl's reply.

"But, Sir, the spread thy lay out for us is so tempting!" said pigeons.

"Well, you must have the will power to resist temptation, or you will ruin yourself. The choice is yours." Mr. Owl spoke in his sternest voice.

"OK Sir, we will start the house and health campaign straight away" said Pigeon and as they all left Mr.Owl's home, the wise bird called after them, "You would do well to open gymnasiums too and get your tribe to use them!"

The next morning, as Mr.Owl spread out the newspaper and turned on the morning news, he learnt of the Triple H campaign launched by the pigeons – 'Home, Health and Happiness' it was called. "Hm..better late than never," Mr.Owl muttered to himself as he began doing his pull-ups!

Zero-In - 7

Write down the answers indicated by the clues. Rearrange the letters in the circled squares, to zero-in on the final answer. You have a final clue to help you too!

1. The shortest distance between two points is called a ..... line

2. The famous short emperor Napoleon ruled this country

3. Amitabh Bachan's wife's maiden name

4. The shortest avatar of lord Vishnu

Answer :
The shortest of a dozen divisions

Fill in the form on the reverse of this page and send in your entries to Gokulam before 25.02.09

- G.S.S

ZERO IN -5

1. M A R Y
2. T R E E
3. T H O M A S
4. V A T I C A N
5. C R O S S
6. B I B L E

Answers :

T E S T A M E N T

Congratulations! Here are the winners of Zero-in-5 (December 2008) and the solutions as well. The results of Zero In - 6 will be published in the March 2009 issue.

1. **S.P.Gokulraj, Std.VII, DAV School, Adambakkam, Chennai**
2. **Sarbani Chakraborty, Std.VIII, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Portblair.**
3. **J.Allan Rohit, Std.VIII, Campion Anglo-Indian HSS, Trichy**
4. **Sheetal R.Holla, Std.VII, Jyothy Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bengalooru**
5. **M.Yamini, Std.VII, Sri Sankara Sr. Sec. School, Chennai**

ZERO-IN - 7 Entry Form

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class : .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

● Strictly for school going children ● Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. ● Entries with solved puzzle on the reverse accepted on this form only ● No xerox copies.

Last Date : 25.2.2009

From Another Land...

CHINESE NEW YEAR

The Chinese New Year is one of this nation's important festivals. In 2009, it falls (fell) on the 26th of January. This New Year is called the Lunar New year by the non-Chinese world! Every New Year in China has a different animal symbol. This year's symbol is the ox.

The Chinese New Year is celebrated for five days! People greet each other with the words, "Kung Hei Fat Choy!" Before the onset of the new year, they clean up their houses and decorate them, mainly with red coloured decorations. This colour is considered auspicious and is believed to bring luck. There are parties and family gatherings on all five days.

Each time the Chinese New Year falls on a different day. The Chinese kings of yore chose different months to be the beginning of a year.

It is customary to wear red clothes on the first day of the year. This is again to bring us luck and good health. I simply love to wear the red costume for New Year. We also get to eat delicious dishes like dumplings, dim sum, noodles and sweets. We are gifted red packets by the elders. These are called 'Lai See' and they contain 'lucky money' for kids like us and for the adults too.

There are many performances during the New Year season. One among them is the Lion Dance. The dancers wear a special costume which has a lion's head and a dragon's tail! This is a group performance and the dancers display many skills like dancing on poles, keeping time to various drumbeats etc.The dancers also go around to all the shops in the city, perform their show and collect good money.

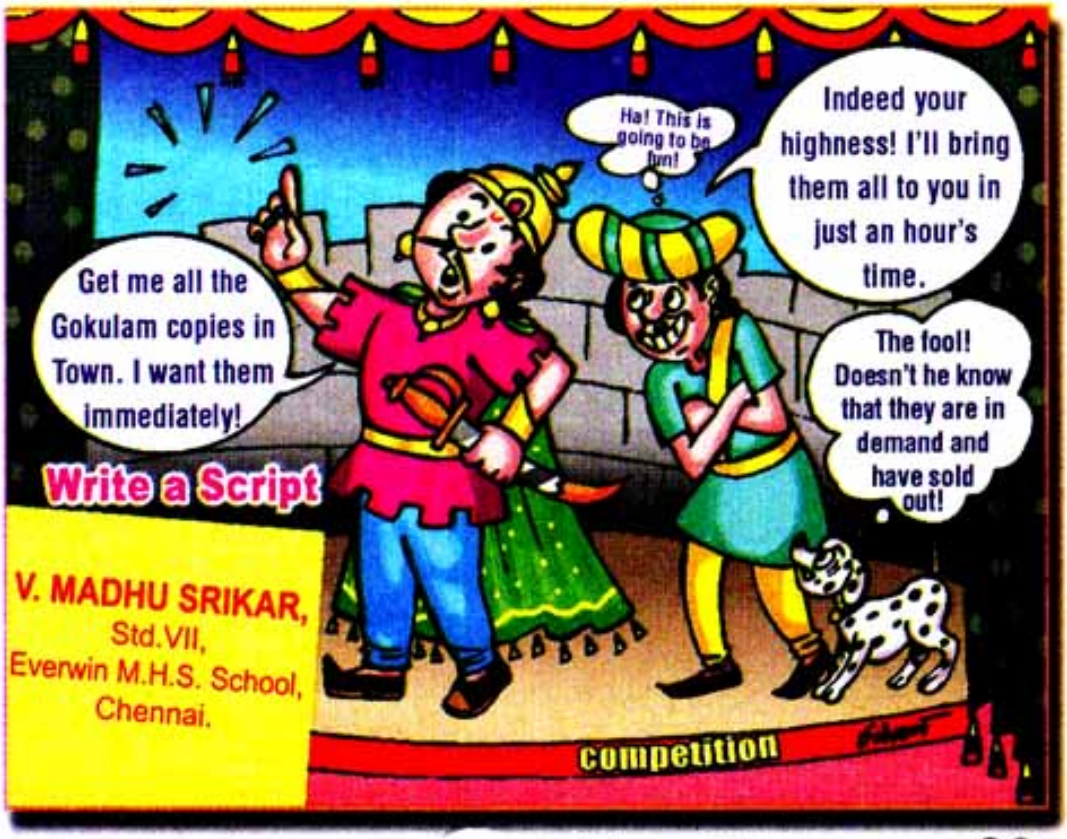
- Gayathri Sivakumar,
Hong Kong.

DARING DRAMATISTS!

Kudos to the daring dramatists who scripted the winning entries to 'Write a Script' competition (December '08 issue). They were the toppers from among hundreds of eager entrants. This competition was not easy to attempt, for it demanded channelised imagination! But Gokulam readers have proved again that they are of a class apart. Hearty congrats to the winners and greetings to all those who participated!

KEEP SMILING; KEEP WRITING!

B. ARAVIND NAGARAJ,
Std.VIII,
National Public School,
Chennai.



V. MADHU SRIKAR,
Std.VII,
Everwin M.H.S. School,
Chennai.

CORN SANDWICH

You need:

Boiled corn - 1 cup
Bread - two slices
Oregano - to taste
Chat masala - to taste
Butter - 1 tea spoon

Method : Spread butter on one of the bread slices. Now layer the slice with the boiled corn. Scatter the oregano and sprinkle chat masala over the corn. Place the other slice over this one and get an adult to grill the sandwich for you. It is a tasty, healthy treat.

(Source: My mother)

- Darshana N. Dawda, Age 15, Shree Vailankanni Englsih School, Dombivili (W)

JAM SHAKE

You need:

Mixed fruit jam – two tea spoons
Chilled milk – 1 glass
Fresh mint – one small sprig
Strawberry (or other fresh fruit) – a few pieces

Method: Pour the milk in a mixer jar, add the jam and whip for about thirty seconds. That's it! Your jam shake is done like magic. Pour into a tall glace and lace it with mint sprigs or cut fruit pieces. Smells great and is a real cool drink when just back home from school.

- A.Ashwin Vayiravan, Std.XI, TVSMHSS, Madurai

SPROUT CHAT

You need:

Sprouted, whole green gram-1 cup
Cucumber (grated) – half a cup
Carrot (grated) - half a cup
Onion (grated) – half a cup
Raw mango (grated) – quarter cup
Curd - 1 cup
Boondi – quarter cup
Chat masala – 1 tea spoon
Salt – to taste

Method: Put all ingredients except the boondi into a large bowl,

mix well and chill in the refrigerator. Sprinkle the boondi on it just before serving. It will make a great side dish for briyanis or just a smacking snack by itself.

- G.Kirthana, Std. VII, KVASC, Bengalooru

STRAWBERRY SMOOTHIE

Fresh or frozen strawberries – 6

Ice cubes – 6

Fresh orange juice – one cup

Banana (peeled and cut into chunks) – 1

Yoghurt (flavoured or plain) – 1 cup.

Method: Wash and clean the strawberries if they are fresh, and pare the top of each carefully. You may skip this step if you are using frozen strawberries. Now put all the ingredients into a blender and blend at high speed till the mixture is frothy and there are no chunks of fruit floating in it. Serve immediately.

You could substitute the strawberry with mango or chikkoo, whichever is seasonal.

(Source: My mother)

- Amulya Amar, Std.IX, Carmel School, Bengalooru

PATIENCE PARTNER!!

Story : P. NISHANTH, *Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chennai.* Pictures : PILLAI

Will be back with you soon. Just hang on there...
I have waited too long. The barber is just not coming...
Hey! What are you waiting for? I have to get back home.
Patience, partner! I am waiting for your beard to grow before I can shave it!

Cover Story

On a Cleaning

It is spring. The earth has been covered by a velveteen carpet of green. Flowers are in full bloom. Trees are swaying gently in the breeze, fluttering their leaves. Birds are singing harmoniously from their nests. Bees are buzzing about busily.

Spring is a beautiful season that renews our earth after every winter. It "cleans" away the cold and gloom of winter and brings in life anew. Our environment is so meticulously designed that it cleanses itself periodically.

If Mother Nature is so particular about her cleanliness, shouldn't we too be concerned with ours? Spring is the best time to carry out a massive spring cleaning mission. What better way to welcome spring of the environment than with spring of our own homes?

It is good to start with our own room. Look around. Look into cupboards, drawers and cabinets. How many of our belongings are simply lying in there, broken and useless or unused and forgotten? Surely, plenty. We human beings have a knack for accumulating objects every now and then. And more often than ever, we hardly use all our belongings.

Instead of letting old things unnecessarily take up space, would it not be better if these were discarded? It is not only difficult to locate things in a cluttered and dirty environment, but also harmful to our health as these are breeding grounds for germs.

Indeed, cleaning is an unpleasant

task for many of us. It is boring to clean and is painful to part with old belongings. But it is necessary. At the end of it, our surroundings will be fresher and easier to live in. It is a joy to look at sparkling and organised spaces where everything is readily accessible.

Anyway, broken toys and torn books are of no use to anyone. They should be thrown away. And clothes we have outgrown or dolls and cars we don't play with anymore can be given away to children who need them and could do with them.

Spring cleaning can be improvised into a fun-filled activity for the entire family. First, decide what is it that is to be cleaned. Is it the wardrobe, or the bookshelf, a cabinet or an entire room? Secondly, how is to be cleaned? Should it just be dusted or wiped, or are there things to be discarded? If we know what the aims of our spring cleaning mission are, half our battle against junk is won!

Mission

APARNA SUNDARESAN

Alright then. Let's get to work. To begin with, put on your favourite music. With music that you can hum or sing along to, you will never be tired of any task. Make the entire cleaning process a game, just like Mary Poppins did. She said, "In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun. You find the fun and snap! The job's a game!" If you are cleaning with the rest of your family, divide yourselves into teams. Each team should then be delegated a

certain amount of cleaning jobs. The team that finishes all its chores first wins. Decide your own reward and give yourself a treat!

To make your cleaning job more entertaining, take pictures! You can capture the family in some very interesting and amusing poses... You can also take pictures of a place before and after you clean it.

If you are the more adventurous kind, ask your parents to hide chocolates beforehand in different places that need cleaning. Then, see if you can find them while you clean. The more chocolates you find, the more thorough your cleaning is. If you get all the chocolates in the end, it means you are a power cleaner. Well done!

Never clean at a stretch. This will tire you out. Take five-minute breaks after every half-hour of cleaning. Breaks will refresh you. Drink some water or fruit juices, have some light snacks and get back to work. You will find that you can work much better with breaks than without breaks.

Acquaint yourself with various cleaning fluids and detergents while tidying. Your chemistry books will come alive. If you pay even a little attention to what happens to grime when you squirt soapy water on it, you will be amazed. Dirt will disappear right before your eyes, just like magic.

So what are you waiting for? Pick up that duster and play the game of spring cleaning.

Fun School! Jokes

Physics Teacher : All objects become bigger when heated... Do you have any doubts?

Vignesh : If I heated my answer sheet, would my marks increase?

- A.Aswin Vayiravan, Std.X, T.V.S.M.H.S.S., Madurai

Teacher : Prakash, why are you so late?

Prakash : Sir, I couldn't help it. The road was so muddy that for every step I took, I was forced to move back by two more.

Teacher : Oh! If that were the case, you ought to have been one and half kilometres away from school now!

Prakash : But, Sir, I just turned right about and walked!

- Arun S.Bhat, Std.VI, The Oxford Senior Secondary School, Bengalooru

Teacher : "I sleep" – change this into the future tense.

Student : I woke up!

- Sai Sudharshan, Std.VIII, P.S.Senior Secondary School, Chennai

Teacher : Which age is disliked by all people?

Subha : Garb'age'!

- Vinotheeba Reginald, Grade 7, Good Sheperd Convent, Colombo

My District

The coastal district of Udupi is best known for its palm fringed coastline, dotted with bays and estuaries. Sheltered by the soaring Western Ghats, the district is studded with spots of great scenic beauty. It is aptly called the Parashurama Srushti, encapsulating the vast cultural heritage of the area along with its geographic beauty. Udupi is well-known for it's religious fervour and diverse cultural heritage.

Historically, Udupi has seen a glorious past. The Alupa Kings ruled this land. This was from the early Christian era to the end of the 14th century. After the 14th century, the area came under the governance of the Vijayanagar kings. But the strongest of influences was that of the Portuguese who landed on the coast in the 15th century. Later, Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan ruled over here till the British forces defeated Tipu in 1799.

Udupi is one of the most sacred towns in India. Thousands of pilgrims from all over the country visit here every day to have darshan of the gracious Lord, Udupi Krishna.

The religious importance of Udupi dates back to the time of Madhwacharya of the 13th century. He was a religious leader who is said to have founded the temple

and placed Shri Krishna in it. Udupi is therefore known as a temple city too.

Though a part of Karnataka, the language spoken in Udupi is not Kannnada, but Tulu. Konkani is also spoken by some people. The district is well-known for its fabulous costumed musical drama called Yakshagana. Kambala (buffalo racing) and koridatta (cock fighting) are popular rural sports of this area.

Manipal, the knowledge city, is at a short distance (5 kilometres) from Udupi. It attracts students from all over India and overseas too.

As a new, vibrant district carved from out of Dakshin Kannnada, Udupi has completed six years of existence, recording all round development in the field of education, information technology, industry, tourism etc.

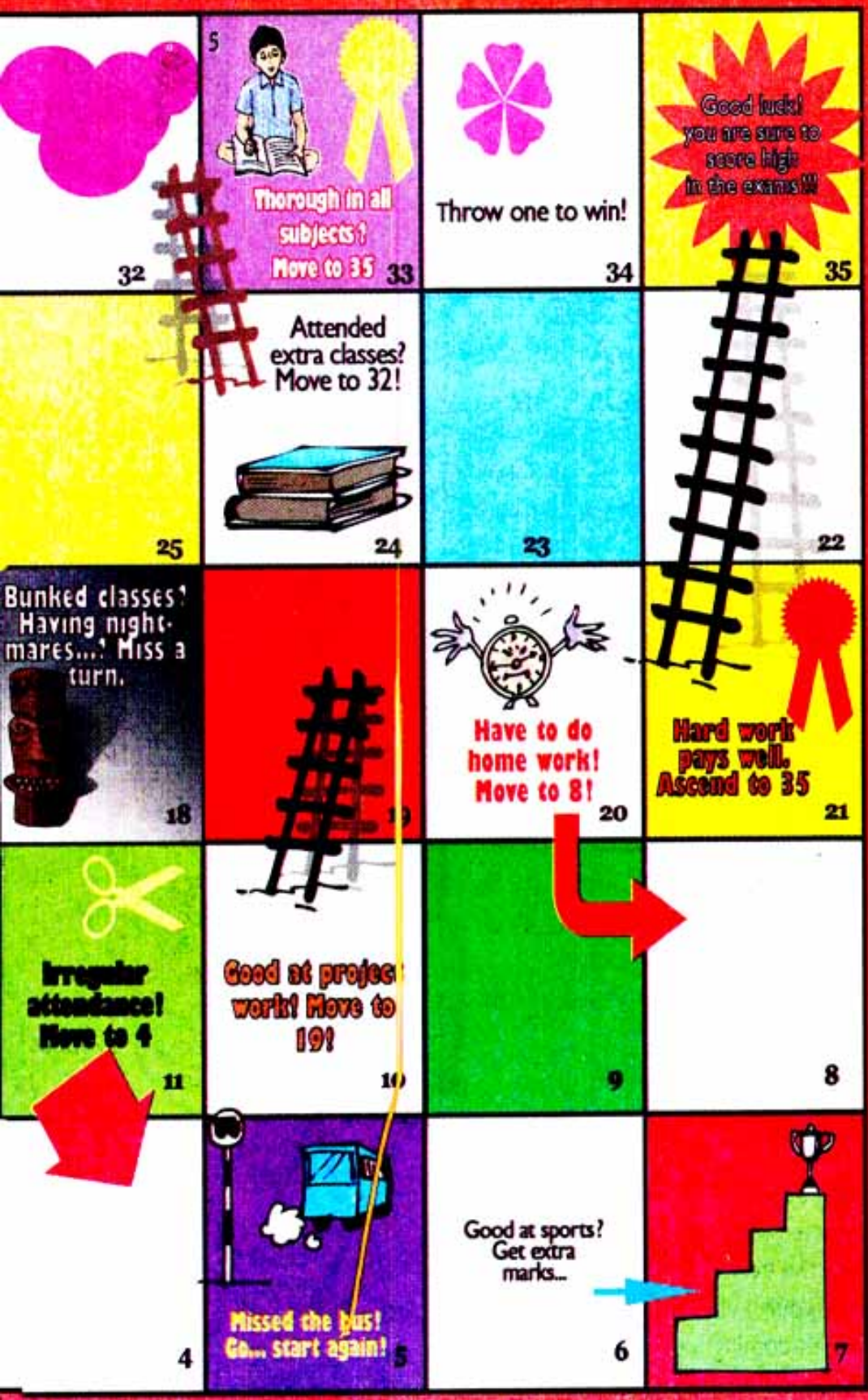
- Vishwas M. Shetty, Std.VIII, St.Mary's English Medium School, Udupi

UDUPI

An Abode of Beauty and Divinity!

EXAM FEVER

Two to four persons can play this game. You need coloured counters and dice to play. Set the dice rolling. Have fun. But, remember to study too, and don't waste time. All the best for your forth-coming exams!


32
Thorough in all subjects! Move to 35
33
Throw one to win!
34
Good luck! you are sure to score high in the exams!!!
35
25
Attended extra classes? Move to 32!
24
23
22
Bunked classes? Having nightmares...? Miss a turn.
18
19
Have to do home work! Move to 8!
20
Hard work pays well. Ascend to 35
21
Irregular attendance! Move to 4
11
Good at project work! Move to 19!
10
9
8
4
Missed the bus! Go... start again!
5
Good at sports? Get extra marks...
6
7

Serial Story

"I want to talk to that brown dog."

They were lounging about in GV's garden as usual, the next afternoon. A few feet away sat Peppy in an arm-chair, supposed to be doing her homework. In reality, she was keeping a watchful eye on GV – but of course, she didn't understand their meows. The previous evening's incident had shaken her up rather badly. For a moment, she thought she had lost GV! She had spent hours relating to her parents how her brave little cat had saved her. And now she didn't intend to let him out of her sight.

"You do have a death-wish, don't you?" asked Muddy from his post on the wall, where he was looking out for dogs. "It should be interesting to see how they eat you up, though."

"Quiet!" hissed Mee-u, who looked worried. "GV, don't even dare say something like that. I don't understand how you could leave us like that and –"

"And jump in front of those dogs for that silly human!" – Muddy.

"Peppy isn't a silly human. She's my Mama," said GV stoutly.

"Even that doesn't explain why you want to meet that big brown monster again."

"But he was different," insisted GV. "He didn't attack me – and it looked like the other dogs would listen to him. Maybe he can talk them out of attacking

Pavithra Srinivasan

everyone. Because if they do –"

"People would get hurt," supplied Mee-u.

"Not just that. The dogs would be hurt too, because they were attacking people," said GV. The others looked at him with surprise. This thought hadn't occurred to them till then.

"Well, good riddance if they're hurt. What does it matter to you? You've got a comfortable home and parents," said Muddy wistfully. "It's not your problem."

"Yes it is," GV said quietly. "I'm lucky I have a comfortable home – but those dogs don't. When I saw them last evening, they didn't look dangerous to me. They looked ..."

"They looked what?"

"Hungry."

"Now I *know* they're going to eat you." Muddy began to wash himself. "Any chance of some milk for me?"

At that moment, Peppy came over, picked him up and bore him off inside. As the others watched with amusement, GV snuggled into Peppy's arms, and sighed. How on earth was he going to meet that brown dog? And what would happen if he did meet him? The image of

CA(UGH)T IN THE CITY!

Jersey's bloodied body kept flashing before his eyes, and GV blinked.

It was rather difficult, over the next couple of days, to evade Peppy's scrutiny and keep track of the dogs. But GV found a way. He spent the day being a demure cat, with Mee-u and Muddy – but the nights were his own. Peppy usually made sure all the

Chapter 6

doors and windows were locked, but three days later, she forgot to latch her bedroom window.

The night looked strange to GV, as he leapt down gracefully into the street. The moon's pearly rays showered the earth. It was all new to him – he had never been out at midnight. He padded gently down the street, nervous. The darkness masked his leopard stripes; his eyes glowed in the dark. He knew where the dogs usually lay – it was in an empty plot a few buildings away from his home. Perhaps he would not return alive – but that was a risk he had to take. He shivered. It was the least he could do protect Peppy, who had raised him since he was a kitten.

If Peppy could understand what he said, this dog could too. And he was determined to have the first word.

But that didn't mean he had to be stupid. He reached the plot and peered in. A group of dogs lay together in a clump. His instincts warned him that the brown dog, as the leader, might sleep away from them. Here, Mee-u's lessons came in handy. With the grace endowed to all cats, he leapt up to the sunshade of the nearest house, walked almost directly over the group, and peered at them.

He was right. The big brown dog lay in a hollow of mud under a *nochi* tree. He didn't seem to be deeply asleep. With what Mee-u described later as great bravery or stupidity, GV hissed at the dog.

He was up in an instant. His keen ears pricked up; he looked up to see the leopard-striped cat sitting motionless on the sunshade. As GV leapt down to the compound wall, the dog gave a low growl.

And GV froze.

Until now, the cat had tried to keep his mind firmly on making sure that the dogs would keep away from attacking anyone. In typically GV fashion, though, he hadn't fully thought through what he would do when he finally did meet his nemesis. One thing was certain: he was going to put Mee-u's lessons to good effect and not be mauled, if possible. Accordingly, he moved back a few paces and leapt, prudently, back to the window shade.

They stared at each for a while. GV wasn't really sure how he could talk to the dog – he wondered briefly if he ought to use an interpreter, and then discarded the idea. If Peppy could understand what he said, this dog could too. And he was determined to have the first word.

"Before you eat me up, will you listen to what I say?"

The dog stopped growling in surprise. "Eh?"

"I need to talk to you."

The dog glanced at his brothers, all fast asleep in the moonlight. He seemed to be struck dumb by amazement at first – but the glance he threw at GV was shrewd and suspicious. "You do know that I can gobble you up in a mouthful?" he said in a guttural accent.

Privately, GV found his voice horrible, but he was nothing if not well-trained. "You can – but you won't." He was shaking inside, but determined to brave it out.

But in one respect, GV had been proven right – the dog possessed a strong sense of amusement and some good sense. His eyes suddenly twinkled. "I've seen many cats in my lifetime, but none like you," he eyed GV carefully. "I give you two minutes."

"I won't need that much time. I know a way you can get all the food you want. Every single day. All your lives."

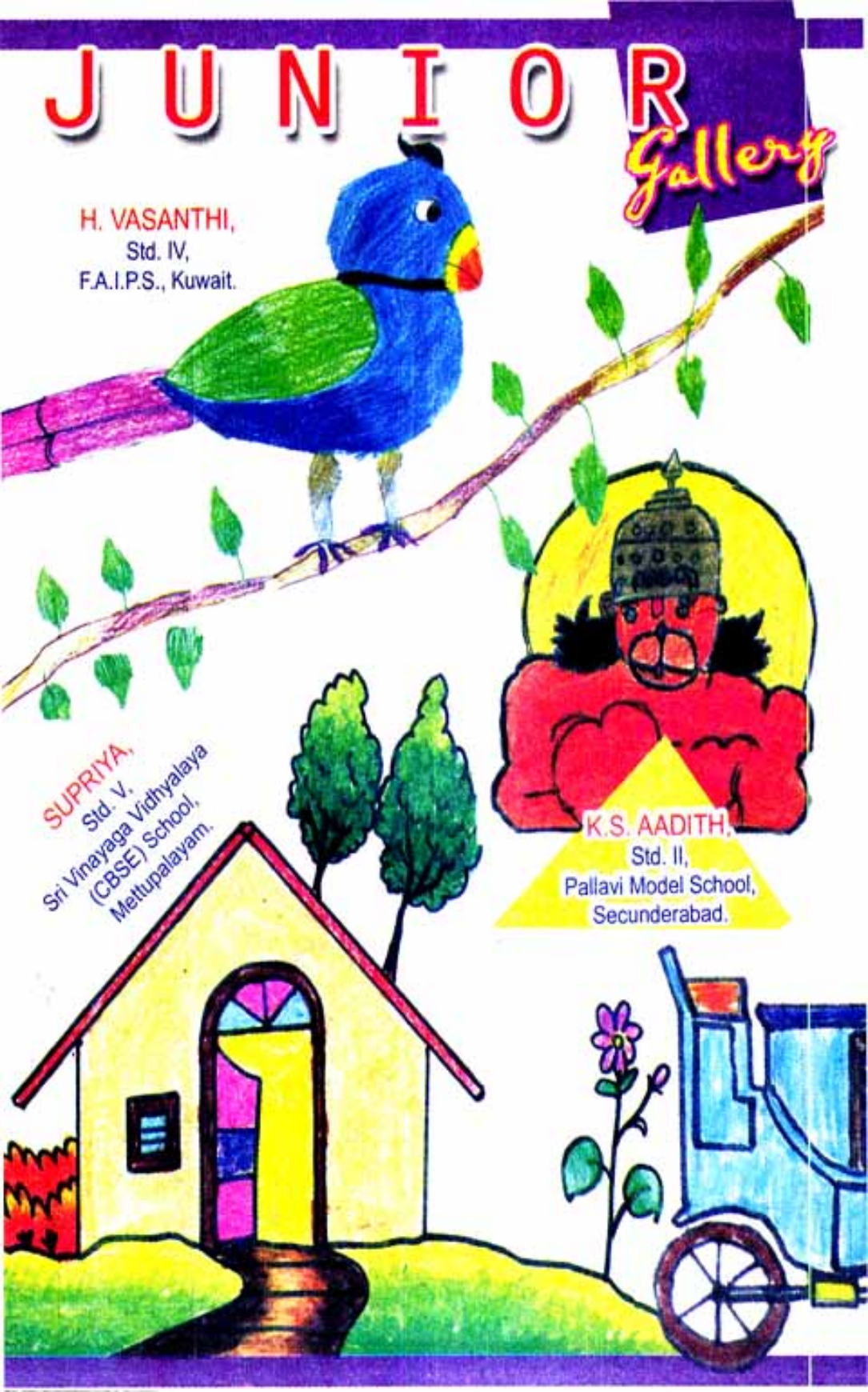
The black dog growled in his sleep. The brown dog looked astonished. "Have you suddenly won a food lottery or something? And even if you have, why would you help us?"

"I have my reasons. And all you have to do is kill a snake."

"I was right – you are one insane cat. But I'm curious: what's your plan?"

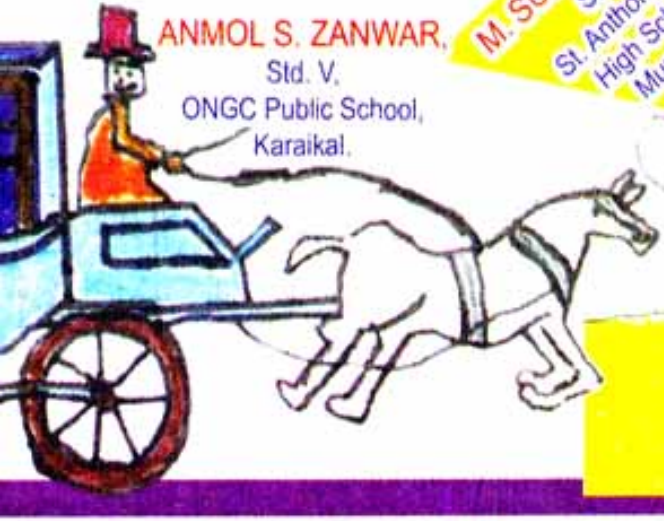
(to conclude next month)

JUNIOR Gallery



SUBASHINI,
Std. IV, Kendriya Vidyalaya, New Delhi.

T. KEERTHI,
Std. I,
BHEL Matric
Hr. Sec. School,
Trichy.



ANMOL S. ZANWAR,
Std. V,
ONGC Public School,
Karaikal.

M. SUBALAKSHMI,
Std. II,
St. Anthony Girls
High School,
Mumbai.

They Make News

Beauty Catapulted Her to Success

SANDHYA SRIDHAR

She was India's most famous beauty queen. Despite the fact that she lost out to the first place in the Miss India contest to Sushmita Sen, she was the most popular choice... Meet Aishwarya Rai-Bachchan...

Beauty vs Brains

There was a time in our country when beauty pageants were not at all the thing that girls from good families would participate in. Most middle-class parents wished for a good education for their children, and anything to do with media and entertainment were not at all priority. In fact, this industry was seen as a 'Big Bad World' as against good professions like medicine, engineering, literature, etc.

But in the early '90s, all this changed, completely transforming the beauty, cosmetic and entertainment industry. This happened because of two girls from well-established, middle class families who participated in beauty pageants and went on to acquire name and fame. They were Sushmita Sen and Aiswarya Rai.

How Did this Happen?

The year was 1994. The Miss India pageant had a light-eyed contestant, a model from down South, who was already popular in the advertisement industry. Her name was Aishwarya Rai. The girl was accomplished and according to some reports, dreamed of becoming an architect. While studying, she began modelling on the side. Then came the Miss Incia contest, where she was hotly poised to win. In fact, public opinion had

decided that Rai would be a winner.

But the surprise winner that year, was a younger girl, a girl whose father was an Indian Air Force Wing Commander and mother, a jewellery designer. This girl was studying literature and wanted to become a journalist. She was Sushmita Sen and she won the title of Miss India in 1994. Aishwarya became the runner-up, bagging the title of Miss India-World, representing our country in the Miss World contest internationally.

Becoming Miss World

In the Miss World contest, Aishwarya went on to win the title, creating a sensation in the country and internationally. India became the focus as the world media went ga-ga over this good looking girl from the sub-continent. She spent a year in London after that, fulfilling her duties as contest winner, modelled and then began her career as an actress. Interestingly, her debut film was a Tamil one, well-known director Maniratnam's Iruvar, where she appeared in a brief but well-noted role. She also acted in a double role in the Tamil film Jeans and Kandukondain Kandukondain.

Making a Mark as an Actor

Since then, Aishwarya has come a long way, acting in films opposite popular and well-known stars. She has also acted in international films like Bride and Prejudice, Mistress of Spices, etc. She has acted in commercial films like Devdas, Dhoom 2 and Guru as well as acclaimed films like Chokher Bali and Provoked. She is now working alongside Rajnikanth in the under-production Tamil film Enthiran.

Personal Life

Rai was born in Mangalore to Krishnaraj and Vrinda Rai, and belongs to the Bunt community. She was a good student and can speak several languages like Tulu, Hindi, English, Marathi and Tamil. She is married to Abhishek Bachchan, actor and son of acclaimed actors Amitabh and Jaya Bachchan, who are billed as the 'first family' of Hindi cinema aka Bollywood.

Experience

Strawberry Adventure!

When I was about six years old, my mother took me to an exhibition. There I bought a small, scented rubber (eraser). It was shaped like a strawberry and smelt like one too!

The whole day, I inhaled it's fragrance with gusto. In the evening, as I strongly inhaled, keeping it close to my nostrils, the strawberry rubber went right into my nostril! My God, did I find it difficult to breathe! Fortunately, I was soon caught by my parents, trying hard to blow out the eraser. They took me to a hospital and the doctor had to insert a pair of forceps into my nostril to retrieve the rubber and relieve me! I cannot forget this incident easily.

- A.Aswin Vayiravan,
Std.XI, TVS MHSS,
Madurai

A JOLLY CREATURE!

My family shifted to Chennai recently. We settled in a rented house. A number of monkeys live near this house. One day, as we were watching TV, suddenly we heard a noise from the balcony. We rushed there to see a monkey that had come in. The jolly creature took hold of one of my clothes from the clothesline! After examining it for a while, the monkey wore my dress and 'performed' what we thought was a rather cute dance! It then left the balcony with my dress on! I found it very amusing but was a little sad that the dress had gone. Fortunately, it

was just an old night dress.

- S.Subhashree, Std.V,
Chettinad Vidyashram, Chennai.

A PRIZE FOR HANDWRITING

We had just moved to

Bengalooru from Mumbai last August. At my Mumbai school, my teacher was not too happy with my handwriting. Both my Mom and my school teachers had been telling me to concentrate on improving my handwriting. My mother even bought me many exercise books to practice cursive handwriting every day. This year, in my new school in Bengalooru, there was a handwriting competition held in my class. I participated and was quite sure that I would not get a prize. But, to my surprise, I was selected to enter the semi-finals and was filled with joy when the prizes were announced, for I had won the first prize! I thought within: 'is it not all because of Mom and my teachers in Mumbai...? It is they who took the efforts to make me practice my handwriting and also corrected my mistakes. I thanked them heartily in my mind that moment.

- Varsha.V, Std. V, Vagdevi Vilas School, Bengalooru

MISSING!

I used to live in Jamshedpur, which is now in Jharkahand. I was around three or four years old then. It was a fine evening and my parents wanted to go shopping. We got dressed – my parents, my sister and myself – and started walking down to the bazaar. While my parents and sister stopped at a shop to look at the display, I just walked ahead without realizing that they had stopped! After walking along for a while, I turned to look for the family and found that they were not there! I was really nervous. Around the same time, my parents and sister too realized that I was missing. They panicked and began searching for me high and low! The shop-keeper was familiar with my parents and me, for he had seen us shop together at his shop quite often. He reassured my parents and asked them if they were

looking for a little girl in a black dress. My parents said yes and the shop-keeper left his wares to go out looking for me in the direction towards which I had walked. Sure enough, he found me and brought me back to my parents. My parents had expected me to be sobbing and full of tears. They were quite relieved that I was not crying!

- Nikita.

THE GOKULAM SPIRIT!

I was very happy that my science project regarding 'global warming' got selected for the district level exhibition of school students' projects. It was actually Gokulam that first encouraged me by publishing my contribution about global warming in the September 2008 issue. I received the remuneration for it too. This motivated me to do a very big chart for the project on the same subject. I drew many more details on the chart and at the exhibition where it had been displayed; I offered many explanations to all the student visitors. Many teachers appreciated my work. One of the students remembered seeing my work published in Gokulam and asked me if I were the same Shanthi. I was so pleased to confirm that her guess was right. This girl immediately said that she too would send contributions for Gokulam. I must thank Gokulam for bringing out our talent and building our confidence.

- E.Shanthi, Std.XI,
Subbiah Vidyalayam
Girls H.S.S,
Tuticorin.

Doctor Knows Best!

● **Hafsa, Std.X, Bad-Ud-Din Mahmood Girls College, Kandy**

When I study about our body nerves, heart and other systems, I feel a shiver in my spine Why does this happen?

When fear grips you, hormones are secreted. They pass through the spinal cord, and you feel as if a wave is passing through. As the chill 'goes up your spine', your sweating also increases. Though many changes occur in our body following fear, the sensation is felt more distinctly in the spinal cord due to its narrow passage.

Why do Babies Sleep when Patted Gently?

● **V.Deepak Ramanan, Std.VII, T.V.S.M.H.S.S**

Why do babies fall asleep when patted?

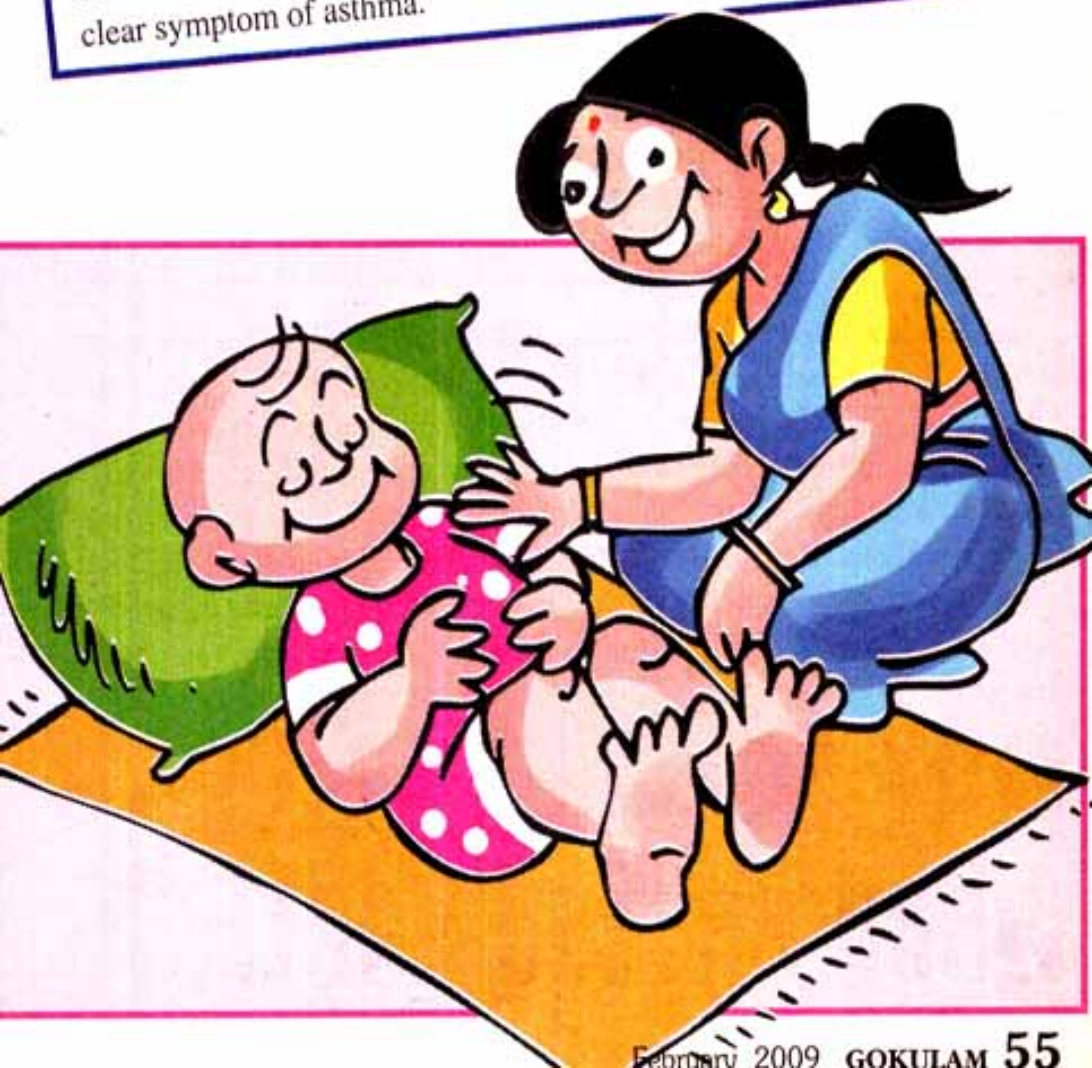
The infant feels that it is in caring and comforting hands when patted gently. It feels relaxed and secure. Hence it sleeps soundly. Babies who are laid to sleep in makeshift 'cloth cradles' feel cozy because the soft cloth that hugs their body is reminiscent of the mother's womb. You know that the foetus is suspended in the mother's womb. When the cloth cradle that 'wraps around' the baby is gently jerked, the baby feels as if it is inside the mother again!

As told by Dr.N.A.JAYAVELAN to G.S.SUBRAMANIAN

•Sarbani Chakraborty, Std.VIII, K.V.1, Port Blair

What happens in asthma? I have heard that it causes breathing trouble?

Our respiratory vessels expand and contract like rubber with the air flow. Asthma occurs when the vessels are unable to expand adequately. This inability is caused due to allergens (substances which cause allergy). Due to this, air cannot pass (especially the outward flow of air, i.e. expiration) smoothly. This results in a peculiar sound, which we call wheezing – a clear symptom of asthma.



• S.Revathy, Std.VIII, K.V., Chennai 600020

I am fourteen years old. My teeth have turned yellowish white in the past two months. I brush my teeth only once a day. I've tried cleaning it with the brush but it again becomes yellowish very soon. How can I remove the stain?.

There are many reasons for yellow teeth. Your dentist will let you know of the exact reason, after an examination of your teeth. However, the most probable causes in your case, I suspect, are fluorosis and plaque. Have you changed your residence recently? In certain areas, water contains more fluoride. This is specially so in North Arcot District in Tamil Nadu. The excess fluoride is deposited on the teeth; hence the decolouration. Due to the chemicals in the food we take, the colour of our teeth may change. Scaling (akin to polishing) of teeth will remove the plaque.

• T.E.L.Kesava Reddy, Std.XII, Atomic Energy School, Ganjam, Orissa

Is it wrong to drink water immediately after play?

Please allow five minutes after play before drinking water. Wait for your heavy breathing to subside. While playing or doing exercises, blood flows towards the muscles. Even though you have stopped playing, excess blood flow to the muscles does not stop immediately. At such times, functioning of your stomach is dull because blood has been diverted to the limb muscles. Hence if you eat or drink anything immediately after playing an outdoor game, the food will not be absorbed fully in the stomach. Another indication that the stomach is ready to receive some 'material' is that panting and perspiration have come to a halt.

Most of you have been sending us jokes, facts and snippets gathered from the internet or G.K. books. Do show us how original you can be. Write your thoughts and ideas on various issues. Report funny happenings at school or home. Do make sure that you put down your name, age, class, school name and residential address individually on each and every contribution that you send to Gokulam.

★ The best ones will be published and a participation certificate will be sent to the contributor.

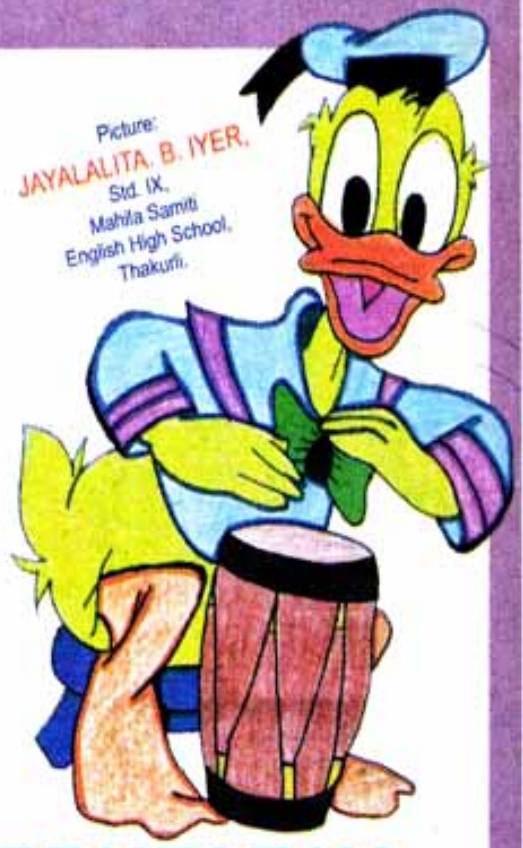
★ Please preserve your participation certificates. **In case you don't receive the certificates which are mailed to you by Gokulam, keep a xerox copy of your contribution in your collection. The contributor who collects the most number of certificates will win a prize.**

★ All competition entries should reach us before the last date mentioned.

★ Entries to Birthday Bash column should reach us along with the appropriate message and photographs **two months before the birthday.**

★ Do be original in your contributions and creations. If you have based your writing on a source, be sure to acknowledge it and name it and...

NEVER EVER COPY!

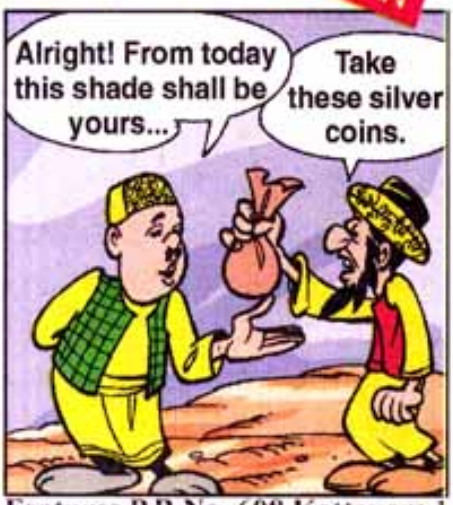


ATTENTION!
ALL GOKULAM READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS...

Part 2

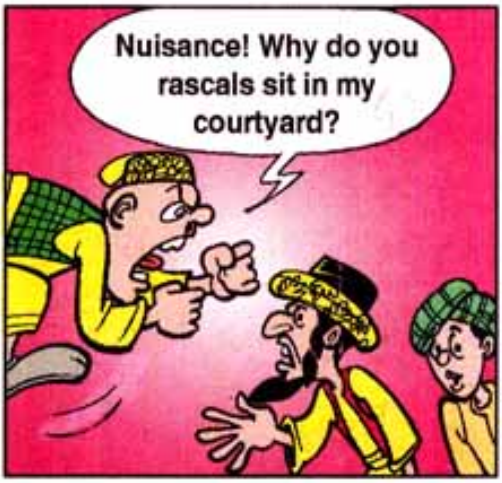
A Shade of Disappointment!

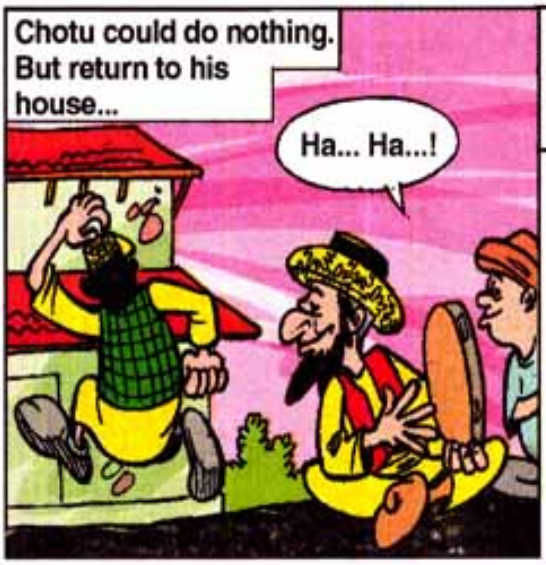
Script : MOHAN
Drawing : AJAYAN



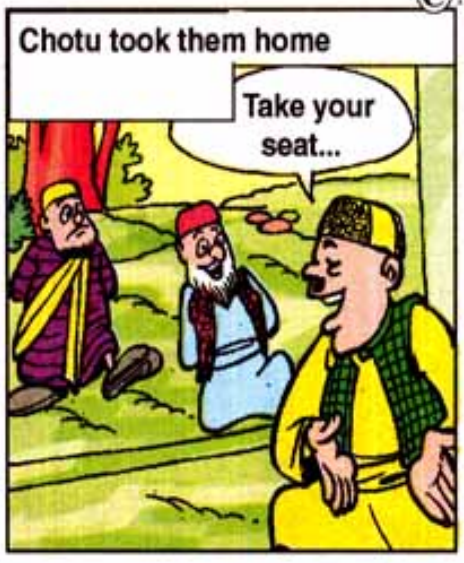
©Malay Features P.B.No. 608 Kottayam 1

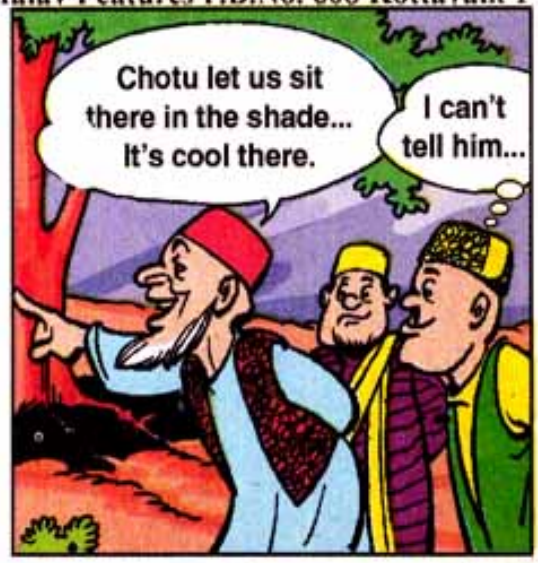
Having purchased the shade, Effendi started to sit in it along with the villagers. They played musical instruments, sang songs and had a jolly time...





©Malay Features P.B.No. 608 Kottayam 1





As the friends sat in the shade...

Do you remember all the mischief we did in our childhood? Ha... Ha... Ha...!

Ha... Ha...

Oh my god! Effendi and company are coming...

This shade was sold to me by Chotu. You can't sit here.

Is that so? How ridiculous! Are you such a miser?

He may even sell us to make money. Come, let us go.

©Malay Features P.B.No. 608 Kottayam 1

The news that Chotu sold his shade spread everywhere! People started to laugh at him. He couldn't go out of his house...

Bow! Bow!

There's some noise outside. Why is the dog barking?

© Malay Features P.B.No. 608 Kottayam 1

Name : **A.V.Shambavi**

Age : 12

Address : Gulmohar, #1163, 2nd Main Road, 7th Block, 2nd Phase, Hosakerahalli Extn., B.S.K. 3rd Stage, Bengalooru - 560 085

Hobbies : Reading books, playing, swimming.

Name : **Tirtha Tilak Pani**

Age : 11

Address : S/38, Unit 3, Kharavel Nagar, Municipality Colony, Bhubaneshwar

Hobbies : Reading novels, watching TV, reading Harry Potter books, gardening, surfing the net.

Name : **R.Anu Priyamger**

Age : 13

Address : No.11, Jailani Street, Tuticorin, Tamilnadu

Hobbies : Reading short stories, watching TV, playing computer games and listening to music.

Name : **K.S.Aadith**

Age : 11

Address : 3-24-9, Sri Laxmi Nagar, Colony, Hasmathpet Road, Bivenpally, Secunderabad, Andhrapradesh - 500 009.

Hobbies : Reading GK books, watching TV, playing chess, carrom and cricket.

Far or Near?

Name : **Nani Talin**

Age : 14

Address : C/o The Principal of VKN Sher, PO Hawa Camp, Papumpare Dt., Arunachal Pradesh - 791 121

Hobbies : Listening to music, playing, updating knowledge of latest electronic gadgets.

Name : **Richmond Subaharan Reginald**

Age : 16

A Friend is Dear!

Address : B2/F23, Bloemendhal Flats, Colombo - 13, Srilanka

Hobbies : Reading, playing the piano and singing.

Name : **K.S.Reshma**

Age : 14

Address : Kunnathully House, Elavally South, Trissur, Kerala - 680 511

Hobbies : Reading books, listening to music, dancing, singing, drawing

Name : **G. Sambhavi**

Age : 13

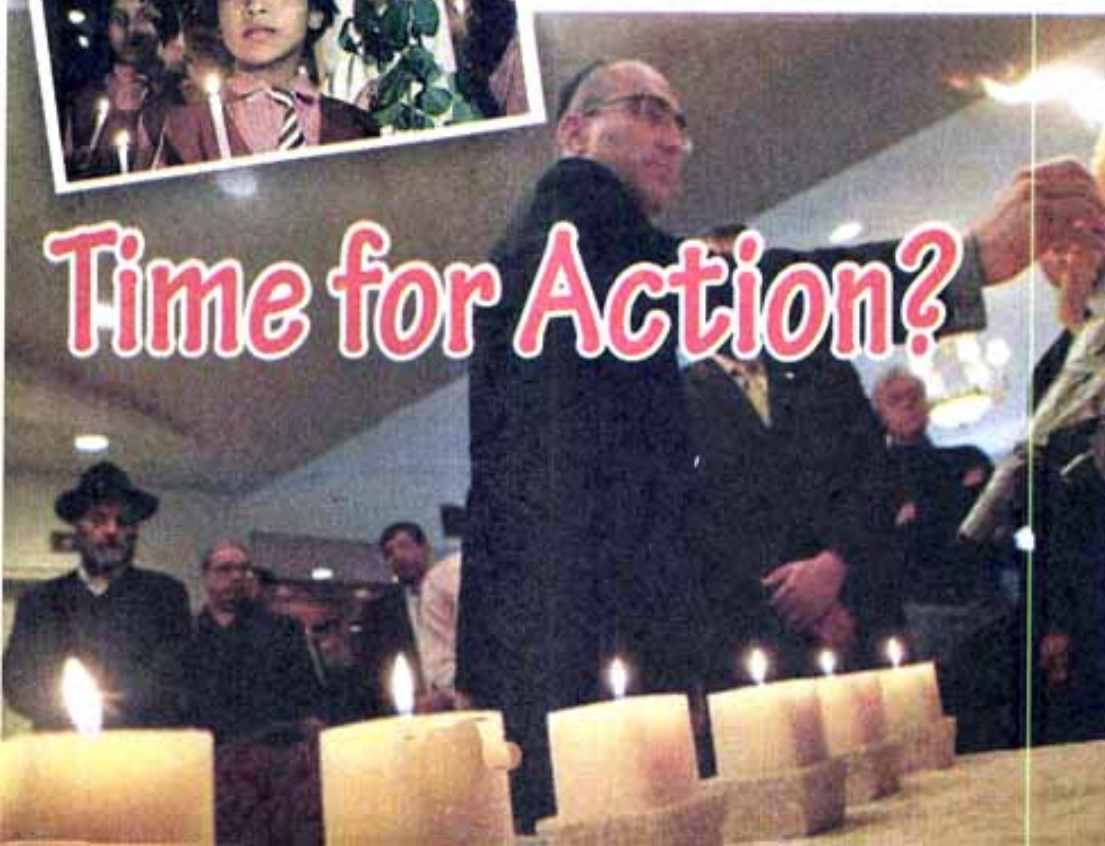
Address : S-3, Sthira Nikethan, Block I, Rukkammal Colony, Thudiyalur, Coimbatore - 641 034.

Hobbies : Reading mystery novels, playing with friends.

Time for Action?

Lighting candles to pay homage to the martyrs and victims of 26.11 violence, is but a small gesture. I saw my mother cry when the martyrs died. Unfortunately I could not participate in the candle ceremony. But I was happy to learn that a young teenager, who was inspired by the bravery of the NSG commandos, resolved to become one himself. This is what we need – action; not words! Blaming everything on Pakistan is unhealthy and of no use. We need to tighten our security system and make ourselves vigilant, so that we can defend ourselves against terrorism and eventually wipe it out. Arise, awake! This is not the time to blame but to act!

- Neha Jha, Std.XI,
Rama Devi Women's College,
Bhubaneswar



Let`s Care for Carrom Too!

Carrom is a game which we neither see on television or at a stadium, when it is being played. There are very few carrom fans in this country, but it is two Indians who hold the World Championship for the game! There have been ten World Carrom champs from India so far and of them seven are from Tamil Nadu.

The International Carrom Federation was started in Chennai in the year 1988. The game and the competitions became streamlined after this. Perhaps it is because the Federation is headquartered in Chennai, the most number of carrom players are from Tamil Nadu. Players from France and Switzerland come to Chennai for training!

• Yokesh and Ilavazhagi

Ilavazhagi, the twenty four year old current World Champion, had been to France recently to participate in and win the inter- national tour- nament. She is the fourth world champion that Tamil Nadu has produced. There are at least a thousand avid carrom players in this state today. Most of them are from socially and economically disadvantaged families.

Apart from Ilavazhagi, Yokesh Bardesi , is also a carrom champion in the men's category

S.N.Kannan

Maharashtra government paid it's five carrom players a stipend of Rupees fifty thousand each, to help them attend tournaments abroad. She suggests that the Tamil Nadu government too can adopt the same policy.

Carrom players who do India proud are not considered for these honours

"There has been no help or support forthcoming for carrom players in Tamil Nadu", says Ilavazhagi. "Yet, many champions have bloomed here. Cricket and tennis are sports that are adequately supported by the government. Prize money is huge for these sports. But carrom is a neglected and unaided sport. A victory brings with it just a certificate and no cash reward", she says sadly. "While actors are awarded the Padmabhushan or Padmashri, carrom players who do India proud are not considered for these honours", she adds. She draws attention to the fact that the

Significantly, Ilavazhagi was rewarded with a purse of Rupees ten lakhs, by the Tamil Nadu government, when she became the world champion.

We too must remember that there are players who work hard and sacrifice a lot to represent our country in sports other than cricket. We must learn more about them and cheer them too.

Peter : This book is so boring. There are too many characters but no story at all!

Librarian : So, it is you who walked off with the membership register!

- S.Varun Athreya, Std.XI, Vidya Mandir S.S.S., Chennai

Chuckles!

Sunil : What are you digging those holes for? Are you going to plant trees?

Anil : No, I buried my money some where here and am looking for it.

Sunil : Did you not mark any sign to help you find it again.

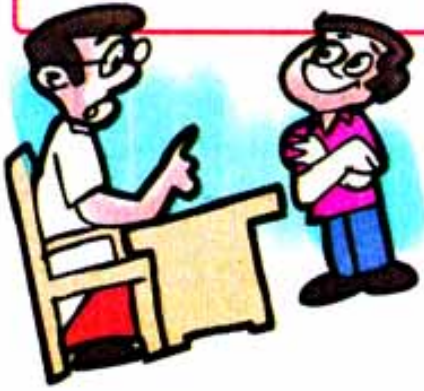
Anil : Yes, of course I did. There was a big black cloud overhead the hole in which I buried it.

- Rinky Diana, Std.IX, Little Flower High School, Nagarkurnool, (A.P.)

English teacher : What is the difference between an active verb and a passive verb?

Student : An active verb shows action and a passive verb shows passion.

- R.Lakshmi Priya, Std.VIII, Nirmala Rani English Primary School, Bengalooru.



Beggar : Dear child, have you enough money for a cup of tea..?

Child : I am not sure, but I will manage some how, thank you!

My friend **S.Priyanka** celebrates her 14th birthday on 19.2.2009. I, with love, wish her a Happy Birthday and I wish her a life full of bliss and happiness.

- Loving friend
V.C. Chandanshree

of happiness, health and prosperity on you, Anish.

Wishes from
Mummy, Daddy and Sneha

Fabulous Feb.

* Shreya S. Rao

* V.Sanjana

* S.Varsha

* Anish Antony

S.Varsha celebrates her 11th birthday on February 27th, 2009. Many, many happy returns of the day and may your future be happy and prosperous.

Wishes from
Daddy, Mummy, Brother and all relatives

Sanjana celebrates her 6th birthday on 5.2.2009. We wish her a happy and prosperous birthday.

Wishes from
Dad, Mom, sister **Keerthana, Vinoth** uncle, **Suresh** uncle, **Suba** aunty, **Geetha** aunty, cousin **Sharmilee**

My dearest brother **Anish Antony** celebrates his 11th birthday on 27th February 2009. May God shower blessings

Our cousin **Anushree** celebrates her 6th birthday on 21.02.2009. Many

many happy returns of the day, Anu.

Wishes from

Anand, Amruta, Amala, Anuja and Ameya

S.Gurucharan celebrates his 15th birthday on 24.2.2009. We wish him good health, happiness, prosperity and a bright future. And we wish him grand results in his board exam.

With lots of love

S.Andal Subbulaxmi (sister), **Grandfather, Daddy and Mummy**

C.Vinotheeba Reginald turns thirteen on 20th February. May god bless you with good health, good luck and happiness. Wishing you fun and smiles. And may this wish bring you happiness today and ever.

Happy Birthday

- Dad, Mom and family

Celebrations!

* Anushree

* S.Gurucharan

* N.S.Jeyanthi Priya

My cute little darling sister **Shreya S. Rao** celebrates her 2nd birthday on 16th February 2009. I wish her a world of happiness, health and prosperity.

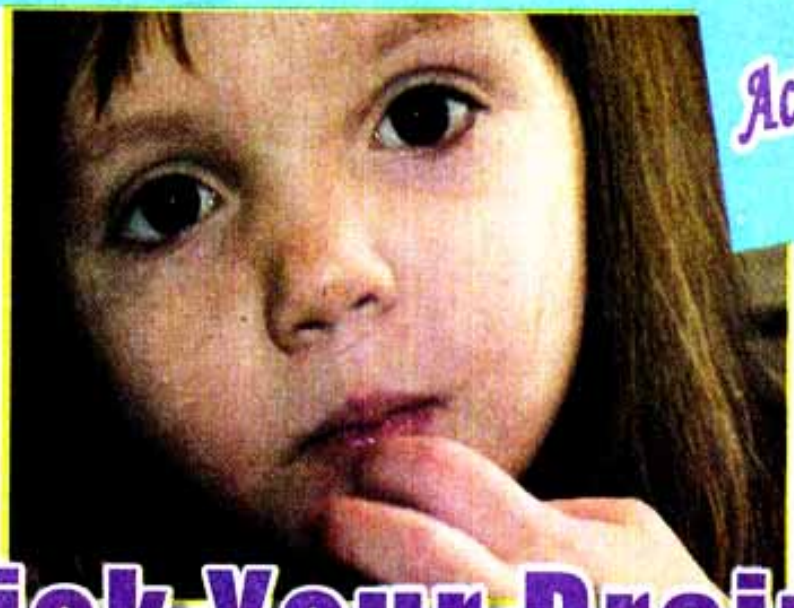
With lots of love and kisses -

Shruti S.Rao

N.S.Jeyanthi Priya celebrates her 16th birthday on 28.2.2009. Happy birthday. We wish you every joy and happiness.

From

Mummy, Daddy and Brother S.Sankar



Activity

Pick Your Brains!

I Do you know where the headquarters of the following organizations are?

1. International Court of Justice
2. National Judiciary Academy (India)
3. Reserve Bank of India
4. Interpol
5. UNESCO
6. International Labour Organisation
7. Amnesty International
8. ASEAN
9. United Nations Development Programme
10. Red Cross

- P.Lavanya, Std.X, K.V., AFSTN, Thane

Ans: 1. The Hague, 2. Bhopal, 3. Mumbai, 4. Lyon (France), 5. Paris, 6. Geneva, 7. London, 8. Jakarta, 9. New York, 10. Geneva

II The words below are English and make perfect sense. Do you know their meanings?

1. Diastema
2. Prad
3. Sternutation
4. Aglet
5. Gormmet
6. Nous
7. Ullage

(Source:www.wordsmith.com)

- D.Rajarishi, Std.IX, Riverside Public School, Nilgiris

fixed to prevent the eyelet of the shoe (meant for the lace) from getting frayed.

6. Common sense! For eg.: No one had the nous to close the door.

7. The amount of fluid which a vessel falls short of being full.

Ans: 1. Space between two adjacent teeth.
2. Horse
3. Act of sneezing
4. A tag present at the end of a lace, which prevents it from getting frayed.
5. The metal or plastic ring which is

III In your drawer there are ten pairs of white socks, ten pairs of black socks and eleven pairs of blue socks, but they are all mixed up. How many of your socks would you need to pick up before you can be sure to have at least one matched pair?

Ans: Four. Although there are many socks in the drawer, there are only three colours, so if you take four socks, you are guaranteed to have at least one matching pair.

When asked about his birthday a man said: "The day before yesterday, I was only 25 and next year I will turn 28." When was he born?

Ans: He was born on December 31st and spoke about it on January 1st

What is the highest number that can be obtained by using four ones?

Ans: 11 to the power of 11!

I have some pencils and some jars. If I put four pencils into each jar, I will have one jar left over. If I put three pencils into each jar, I will have once pencil left over. How many pencils and how many jars have I?

- T.M.Shilpa, Std. IX, Hindu Colony Chellammal Vidyalaya, Chennai

Ans : 16 pencils and 5 jars.

For Younger Children

Raja's mother had four children. Three of them were named Ram, Lakshman and Bharath. What was the name of the fourth son?

Ans: Raja!

Which animal wears a pant?

Ans: Elephant

Scientifically, from which garden can we 'get' a tan?

Ans: Botanical garden

Which pan cannot be used for cooking?

Ans: Japan!

– S.Mohana Sundaram, Std.VIII, K.V. 2, Kalpakkam

A Reader Writes...

THE YOUNG AUTHOR!

The room was lit by a single lamp hanging low from the ceiling. It spread a dim, yellowish glow in the room. A quick glance into the room said that it had not been cleaned for weeks together. The pale, red carpet was barely visible under the books and papers strewn all over it! The walls were plastered with peeling posters of eminent writers. In one corner of the room, a thin looking girl was huddled over a table with a stack of papers before her. Her hand held a pen and there were crumpled bits of paper littered all over the place.

As the girl chewed on her pen and tried to concentrate, the door to the room flew open with a bang! She dropped her pen in fright. A strict looking woman stood at the door and surveyed the room.

"What have you been doing Jessica?" she asked, in a voice so cold, that the room temperature could have dropped a few degrees! Jessica seemed to shrink under the stern look of the lady.

But the lady continued without waiting for her reply. "You've been writing stories again, haven't you?"

"No Mum No, I haven't.."

"Don't lie!" shouted her mother and seized the paper that Jessica held in her hand. She glanced at it and immediately tore it to bits. "And look at the state of your room! Start cleaning it at once and I don't want to see any of your fairy tales again." She left the room and Jessica was in tears.

"Well, if you really want to become a writer, why should your mother be against your wish?" asked Jhara, Jessica's best friend. They were walking back from school together the next day. "Besides, you have got real talent and can make a jolly good writer", she added in a definite tone.

Jessica smiled at her friend's support and said, "She wants me to become a software engineer. But I think she would understand my

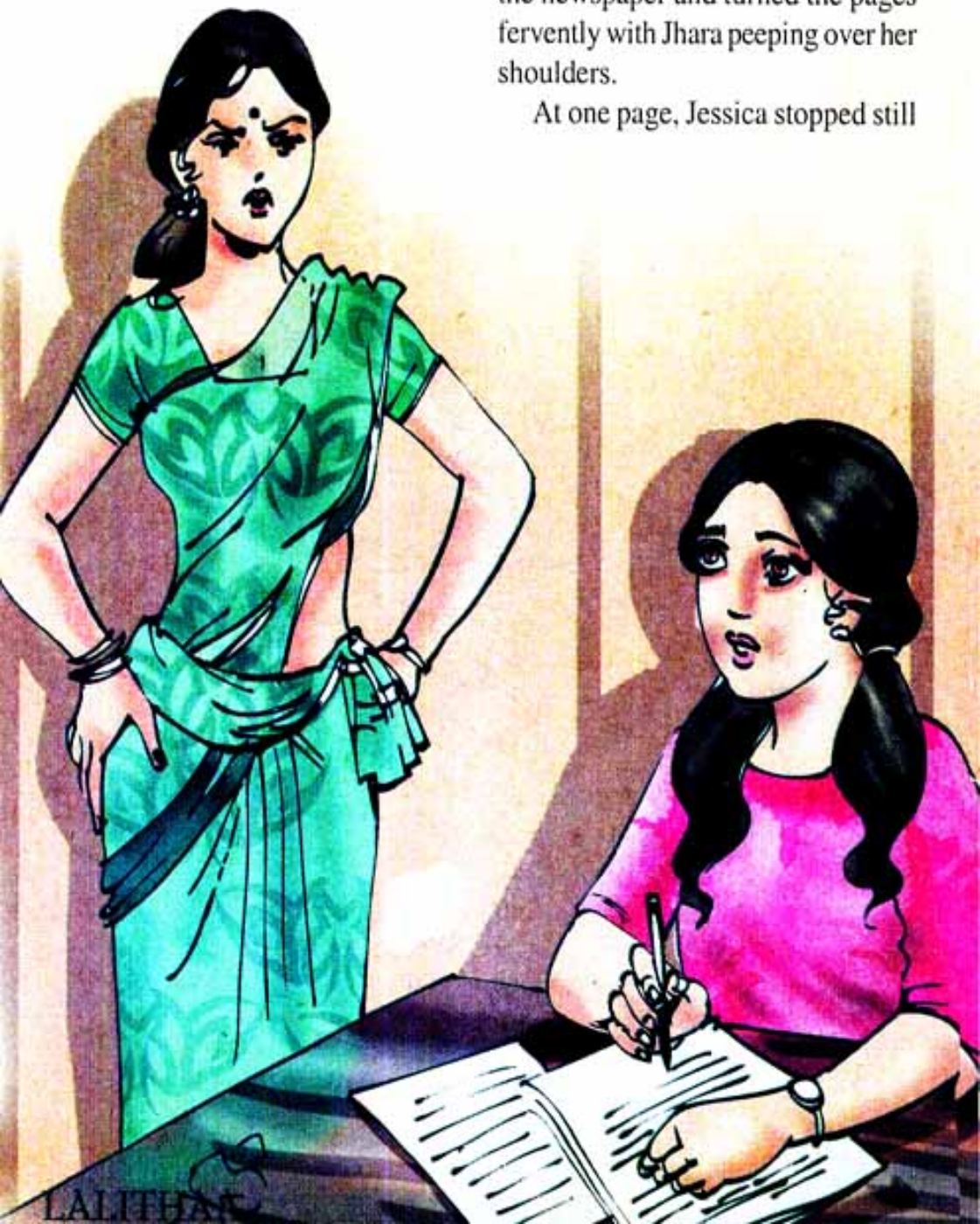
feelings if my story were to be published in a magazine. So I have sent one of my stories to an evening newspaper."

"That's really great Jessy! When do you think it will be published?" asked a thoroughly excited Jhara.

"I don't know. But let's go to the library and check in the newspaper."

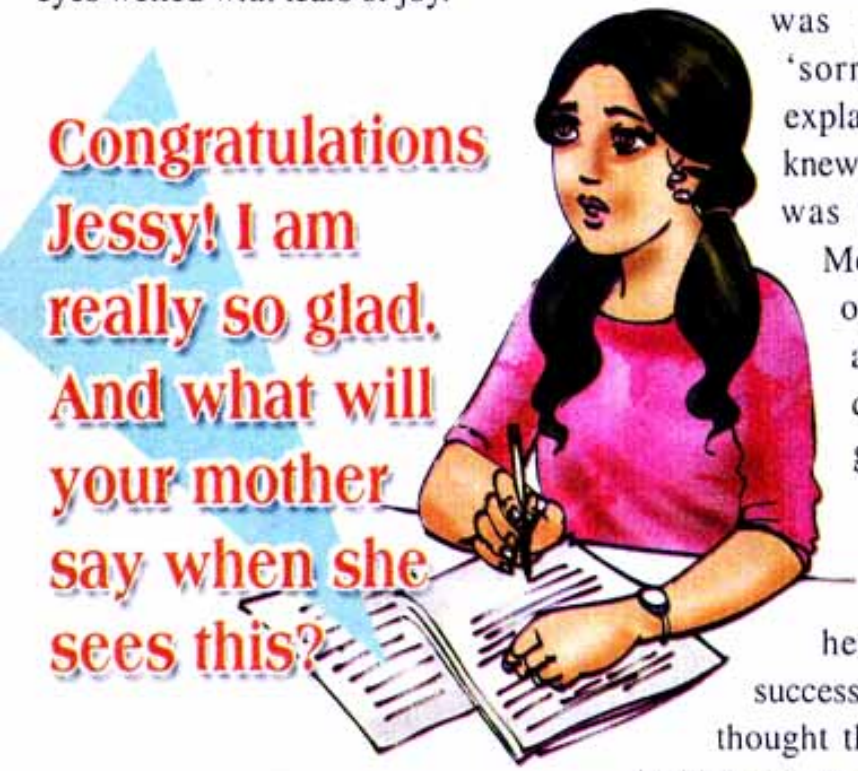
And so, both girls made their way to the local library. Jessica took the newspaper and turned the pages fervently with Jhara peeping over her shoulders.

At one page, Jessica stopped still



and stared at the paper. Jhara gasped and gave her friend a hug. "Oh! I knew it. I knew it would be published. Congratulations Jessy! I am really so glad. And what will your mother say when she sees this? And five hundred rupees prize money too, for being the best story!"

But words failed Jessica and her eyes welled with tears of joy.



Jhara accompanied Jessica back to her house and ran in shouting out to Jessica's mom. She found her in the kitchen. She held out the newspaper which they had picked up from the shop as they ran home and asked her to read the story. Jessica stayed in the living room, fearing that her mother might get angry on seeing the story.

But, when she saw her daughter's story in print and the name 'Jessica' below it, mother could hardly speak for joy. She went to the living room and hugged Jessica. Both mother and daughter cried a little with joy, of course. And as they looked each other in the eye, they understood each other perfectly. There was no need for 'sorry's or other explanations. Jessica knew that her mother was proud of her. Mom clapped her on the back and asked her to continue her good work.

As for Jhara, she was so happy to see her friend's first success and Jessica too thought that she was the luckiest person in the world to have a friend like Jhara.

Needless to say, that some years later, Jessica became a famous and celebrated author!

- M.Nivetha,
Std.XII,
Srinivasa Vidyalaya M.H.S.S,
Udumalpet.

Daily Life

Save Electricity, Save the World!

Nowadays there are frequent power cuts due to electricity shortage. Tamil Nadu, particularly is plagued by this problem. There is a severe energy crisis! We must all do our best to save electricity to help resolve the crisis at least in a small way. Global warming is one more alarming feature which calls for urgent means of energy conservation.

I appeal to all Gokulam readers to save energy in their own way. Here are some tips for the same:

Switch off lights whenever they are not needed.

Spend some time in the evenings, outdoors, where you will get fresh air and not use up electricity for lighting or fans.

Instead of watching TV, read a good book. It will give you real joy and also save electricity.

When you install a new programme in the computer, it may take a long time to complete the task. The monitor can be switched off for that period of time, thereby saving a significant amount of power.

Note that screen savers don't save energy, but on the other hand consume more electricity!

- J.Vishnu, Std.X,
Shiksha Kendra
M.H.S.S, Vellore

News Digest

Terror Attacks and Ballot Battles!

Pakistan government continues to dilly-dally with regards to taking action against terrorists entrenched in that country. This, in spite of a pile of evidence on 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks submitted to it by both India and the U.S.A. World pressure is not yielding any result and Pakistan continues to give evasive replies. The first casualty of this cold war is the cricket matches between India and Pakistan scheduled to be played in Pak. cities. They've been called off.

A more stringent anti-terror law came into effect from 1st January in our country. A powerful National Investigative Agency has been set up to investigate and prevent terrorist attacks. However many important people feel that strengthening the intelligence network and developing the will to act on the intelligence reports are more important than tough laws.

The National Conference led by Omar Abdullah won the most number of seats in the Jammu-Kashmir elections. Though it did not get a majority, it got the support of the Congress to form a coalition government. It is hoped that the youthful Omar will be successful in uniting the people of the state against separatism and terrorism.

* Bewildering fraud!

* Young C.M.

In a historic victory the Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina, trounced Begum Khaleda Zia's Nationalist party in Bangladesh. Sheikh Hasina is the daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was respon-

sible for the formation of Bangladesh, formerly known as East Pakistan. It is hoped that the relationship between India and Bangladesh will now improve. It had not been so good when Khaleda Zia was in power. She had shown little inclination to deal with terror strikes at India by fundamentalist groups entrenched in her country.

• Tiger hunt

• Historic Victory

Israel targeted Palestinian Hamas militant hideouts in Gaza and conducted missile attacks. Though the action taken was against terrorists, who had earlier attacked Israel with rockets, yet, the retaliation was too severe resulting in loss of several civilian lives including school children. World leaders have called for a cease fire but Israel seems determined to wipe out Hamas militants and has penetrated deep into Gaza with tanks and other armoured vehicles.

In a shocking development, Ramalinga Raju, Chairman of India's fourth largest I.T. Company, Satyam Computers, resigned after confessing to fraud. The accounts of the company have been distorted over several years to the tune of 7,000 crores! How this cheating was allowed to happen by the auditors is a big mystery! The future of 50,000 employees being at stake, the government of India has appointed a three member board of Directors to try and rescue the company. Raju and his brother have been arrested and C.B.I. enquiry is underway.

After capturing Kilinochchi and Elephant Pass from the LTTE, the Sri Lankan troops are now nearing Mullaithivu another stronghold of the militant outfit. Srilankan president Rajapaksa says, "Civilian safety is our highest priority; otherwise the war would have been over long ago." However, reports of the suffering of Sri Lankan Tamils which reach us, are heart rending.

Letter Box

Thank you for giving us the nice calendar as a centre spread. It will be nice to remember Gokulam through the year. The Mumbai Martyrs are inspiring and the jokes are rib-tickling.

- A.Sesha Sai Kashyap, Std.IX, St.Joseph's Public School, Hyderabad, J.G. Anchana Devi, Std XI, K.V.,NAL, Bengalooru

I am an admirer of Gokulam. I have been reading it for the past three years. It is informative, educative and gives each child an opportunity through its various competitions. Jai Jai Gokulam!

- B.Kingsley, Std.X, K.V., Hubli

I have not missed even one issue of Gokulam since I was in the seventh standard. The information about great personalities is really good. Could you please publish more jokes and puzzles? I am an ardent admirer of Michael Jackson. Can you publish his poster please?

- N.Janani, Std.XI, Chennai

I just love your fantastic magazine. I think it is the 'bestest' magazine ever printed on this earth. I want to thank you for publishing my poem. You cannot imagine how happy I was to see it inprint. I also received the first earning of my life, by writing to Gokulam!

- Ananya Roy

I am Revathi Padmanabhan studying in the ninth standard. I like your magazine very much. It's very interesting – Grandmaworm, Potter mania, stories and more…I used to

buy Gokulam from a local coffee shop. But it would become too late to participate in competitions. Now I have directly subscribed to Gokulam and wish I will get the copies on time.

- P.Revathi

Dear Janani, Ananya and Revathy,

Please provide complete details about your school, class, residential address in all your letters and contributions. *- Editor*

I am a new reader of Gokulam and was very happy because I got a very good magazine to read.

- E.Sainath, Std.X,
Wardlaw High School,
Bellary

Gokulam is the only magazine I buy every month. It is very interesting. I have improved my English by reading the stories, jokes and puzzles.

- G.Divya Reddy, Std.X,
Little Angels High School,
Tirupathi

Hi, I am Akshaya. I have been reading Gokulam for the past two years. I have improved my English because of this. I am a great fan of Miley Cyrus. Can you publish a poster of Miley please? Can I send more than one contribution for each issue?

- R.Akshaya, Std.VIII,
K.V.1, Port Blair

Dear Akshaya,

You may send more than one contribution per issue, but make sure that you put down your personal information completely in each of them. *-Editor*

I love Gokulam because it is an interesting and lovely magazine. My younger sister also asks me to read the pages aloud to her and explain the stories. My favourties are grandmaworm, editorial, viewpoint. Why have you stopped mini-gokulam?

- G.Jananee, Std.VIII,
Mahathma Gandhi Centenary
Vidyalaya, Trichy

My drawing which appeared in Gokulam Studio (January 2009) has been wrongly credited to T.S. Sadhana of Hosur.

- Diana Rodrigues, Std X,
Fatima High School,
Ambernath(W)

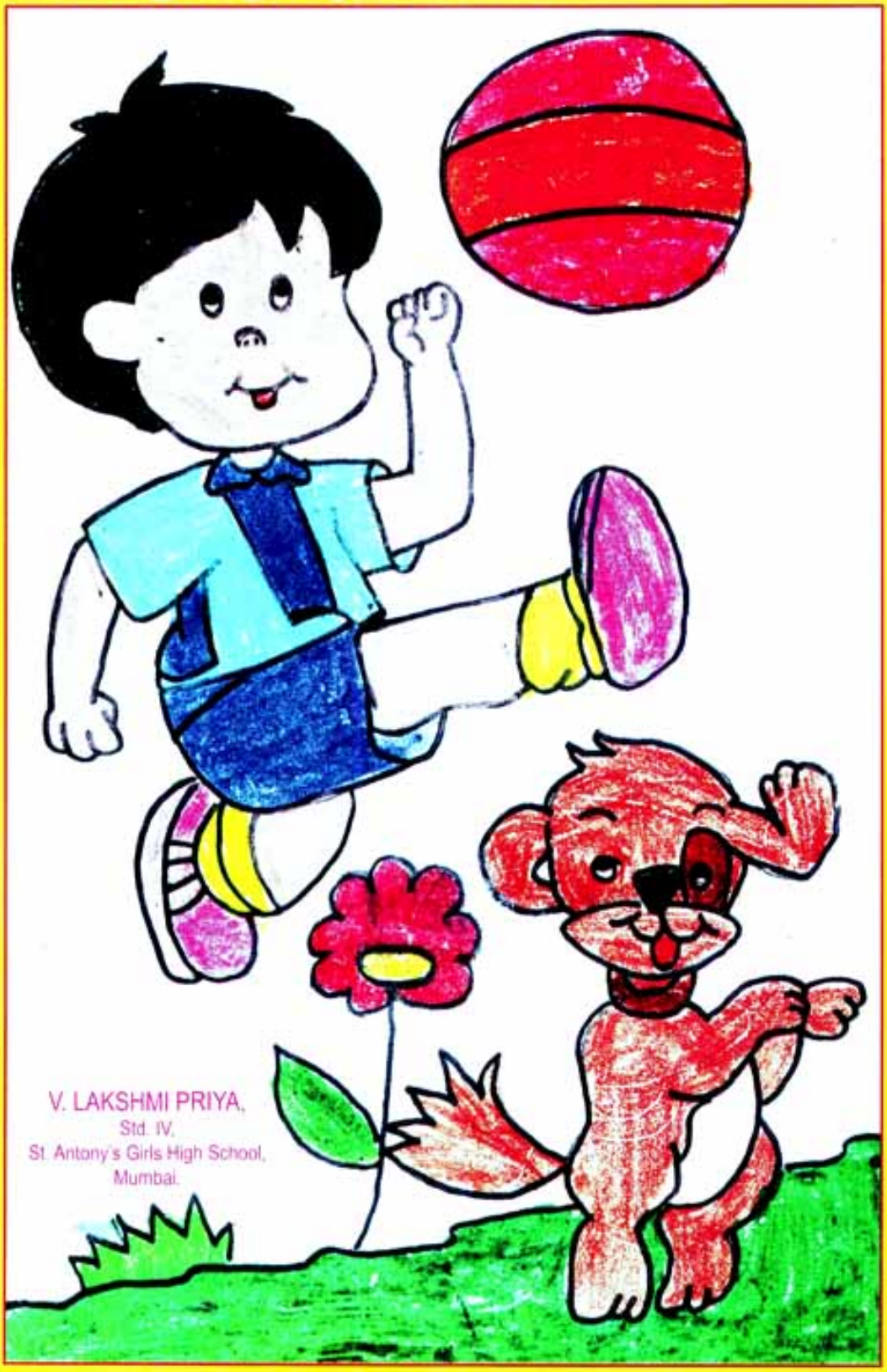
The error is regretted Diana! Here is your picture again.

- Editor

Billu

drttichudii
Concept, Pictures: PILLAI

...Can spring be far behind?



V. LAKSHMI PRIYA,
Std. IV,
St. Antony's Girls High School,
Mumbai.

Registered with the Registrar of Newspaper of India under No. 49668/88 * Registered No. TN/CC(S)DN/107/09-11 * Licensed to post without prepayment under PMG's Licence No. WPP TN/CC(S)DN/44/09-11 * Registered as a Newspaper in Srilanka